

**Advance unedited version**

Distr.: General  
14 June 2018

Original: English

---

**Human Rights Council**

Thirty-seventh session

Agenda item 1

**Organizational and procedural matters**

**Report of the Human Rights Council on its thirty-seventh session**

*Vice-President and Rapporteur: Ms. Marta Maurás (Chile)*

## Contents

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
Part One: Resolutions, decisions and President's statement adopted by the Human Rights Council at its thirty-seventh session .....	5
I. Resolutions.....	5
II. Decisions .....	7
Part Two: Summary of proceedings.....	8
I. Organizational and procedural matters.....	8
A. Opening and duration of the session.....	8
B. Attendance.....	8
C. High-level segment.....	8
D. General segment .....	12
E. Agenda and programme of work .....	12
F. Organization of work.....	12
G. Meetings and documentation .....	14
H. Visits.....	14
I. Urgent debate on the situation of Eastern Ghouta in the Syrian Arab Republic.....	14
J. Selection and appointment of mandate holders .....	15
K. Consideration of and action on draft proposals .....	15
L. Adoption of the report of the session.....	19
II. Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General.....	20
A. Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.....	20
B. Reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General.....	21
III. Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development .....	24
A. Panels.....	24
B. Interactive dialogue with special procedures mandate holders.....	28
C. Interactive dialogue with Special Representatives of the Secretary-General.....	38
D. Open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights .....	40
E. General debate on agenda item 3.....	40
F. Consideration of and action on draft proposals .....	42
IV. Human rights situations that require the Council's attention .....	60
A. Panels.....	60
B. Enhanced interactive dialogue on the human rights situation in Eritrea.....	61
C. Interactive dialogue with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic .....	61

D.	Interactive dialogue with the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan .....	62
E.	Interactive dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi.....	62
F.	Oral update by the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar .....	63
G.	Interactive dialogue with special procedures mandate holders .....	64
H.	Discussion of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran .....	65
I.	General debate on agenda item 4 .....	66
J.	Consideration of and action on draft proposals .....	68
V.	Human rights bodies and mechanisms .....	73
A.	Forum on minority issues .....	73
B.	Social Forum.....	73
C.	Special Procedures.....	73
D.	General debate on agenda item 5 .....	73
VI.	Universal periodic review .....	75
A.	Consideration of the universal periodic review outcomes .....	75
B.	General debate on agenda item 6.....	145
C.	Consideration of and action on draft proposals .....	146
VII.	Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories .....	148
A.	Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories since 1967.....	148
B.	Reports of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General .....	148
C.	General debate on agenda item 7 .....	149
D.	Consideration of and action on draft proposals .....	150
VIII.	Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action .....	154
A.	General debate on agenda item 8 .....	154
IX.	Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action .....	156
A.	Debate on promoting tolerance, inclusion, unity and respect for diversity in the context of combating racial discrimination .....	156
B.	General debate on agenda item 9 .....	157
C.	Consideration of and action on draft proposals .....	158
X.	Technical assistance and capacity-building.....	160
A.	High-level interactive dialogue on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic .....	160
B.	Enhanced interactive dialogue on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo .....	160
C.	Interactive dialogue on the situation of human rights in Libya.....	161
D.	Interactive dialogue on cooperation and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights ...	162
E.	Interactive dialogue with special procedures mandate holders .....	162

F. General debate on agenda item 10.....	163
G. Consideration of and action on draft proposals .....	164

Annexes

I. Attendance .....	167
II. Agenda .....	174
III. Documents issued for the thirty-seventh session.....	175
IV. Special procedures mandate holders appointed by the Human Rights Council at its thirty-seventh session .....	209

## Part One

### Resolutions, decisions and President's statement adopted by the Human Rights Council at its thirty-seventh session

#### I. Resolutions

<i>Resolution</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
37/1	The deteriorating situation of human rights in Eastern Ghouta, in the Syrian Arab Republic	5 March 2018
37/2	The right to privacy in the digital age	22 March 2018
37/3	Integrity of the judicial system	22 March 2018
37/4	Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and the right to non-discrimination in this context	22 March 2018
37/5	Mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism	22 March 2018
37/6	The role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights	22 March 2018
37/7	Promoting human rights and Sustainable Development Goals through transparent, accountable and efficient public services delivery	22 March 2018
37/8	Human rights and the environment	22 March 2018
37/9	Freedom of religion or belief	22 March 2018
37/10	The right to food	22 March 2018
37/11	The effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights	22 March 2018
37/12	Mandate of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights	22 March 2018
37/13	Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights	22 March 2018
37/14	Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities	22 March 2018
37/15	High-level intersessional discussion celebrating the centenary of Nelson Mandela	22 March 2018
37/16	Right to work	22 March 2018
37/17	Cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage	22 March 2018
37/18	Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal	23 March 2018

<i>Resolution</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
37/19	The negative impact of corruption on the right to be free from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	23 March 2019
37/20	Rights of the child: protection of the rights of the child in humanitarian situations	23 March 2018
37/21	Human rights and unilateral coercive measures	23 March 2018
37/22	Equality and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities and the right of persons with disabilities to access to justice	23 March 2018
37/23	Promoting mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of human rights	23 March 2018
37/24	Promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	23 March 2018
37/25	The need for an integrated approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the full realization of human rights, focusing holistically on the means of implementation	23 March 2018
37/26	Prevention of genocide	23 March 2018
37/27	Terrorism and human rights	23 March 2018
37/28	Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	23 March 2018
37/29	The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic	23 March 2018
37/30	Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran	23 March 2018
37/31	Situation of human rights in South Sudan	23 March 2018
37/32	Situation of human rights in Myanmar	23 March 2018
37/33	Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan	23 March 2018
37/34	Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination	23 March 2018
37/35	Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem	23 March 2018
37/36	Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan	23 March 2018
37/37	Ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem	23 March 2018
37/38	Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence against, persons based on religion or belief	23 March 2018
37/39	Technical assistance and capacity-building for Mali in the field of human rights	23 March 2018
37/40	Cooperation with Georgia	23 March 2018

<i>Resolution</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
37/41	Technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in Libya	23 March 2018
37/42	Contribution to the implementation of the joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem with regard to human rights	23 March 2018

## II. Decisions

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
37/101	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Czechia	15 March 2018
37/102	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Argentina	15 March 2018
37/103	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Gabon	15 March 2018
37/104	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Ghana	15 March 2018
37/105	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Peru	15 March 2018
37/106	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Guatemala	15 March 2018
37/107	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Switzerland	15 March 2018
37/108	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Republic of Korea	15 March 2018
37/109	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Benin	19 March 2018
37/110	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Pakistan	19 March 2018
37/111	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Zambia	19 March 2018
37/112	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Japan	19 March 2018
37/113	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Ukraine	19 March 2018
37/114	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Sri Lanka	19 March 2018

## **Part Two**

### **Summary of proceedings**

#### **I. Organizational and procedural matters**

##### **A. Opening and duration of the session**

1. The Human Rights Council held its thirty-seventh session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 26 February to 23 March 2018. The President of the Human Rights Council opened the session.
2. At the 1st meeting, on 26 February 2018, the Secretary General, the President of the General Assembly, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Federal Councilor and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Ignazio Cassis, addressed the plenary.
3. At the 24th meeting, on 8 March 2018, the Human Rights Council observed the International Women's Day. At the same meeting, the representative of Finland (also on behalf of Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Slovenia, the Sovereign Order of Malta, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay) made a statement.
4. In accordance with rule 8 (b) of the rules of procedure of the Human Rights Council, as contained in part VII of the annex to Council resolution 5/1, the organizational meeting on the thirty-seventh session was held on 12 February 2018.
5. The thirty-seventh session consisted of 56 meetings over 19 days (see paragraph 31 below).

##### **B. Attendance**

6. The session was attended by representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council, observer States of the Council, observers for non-Member States of the United Nations and other observers, as well as observers for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations, intergovernmental organizations and other entities, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations (see annex I).

##### **C. High-level segment**

7. At its 1st to 2nd, and 4th to 8th meetings, from 26 to 28 February 2018, the Council held a high-level segment, at which 94 dignitaries addressed the plenary, including 4 heads of state, 1 vice-president, 7 deputy prime ministers, 44 ministers, 31 other dignitaries and 7 representatives of observer organizations.
8. The following dignitaries addressed the Human Rights Council during the high-level segment, in the order that they spoke:



(a) At the 1st meeting, on 26 February 2018: the President of Austria, Alexander van der Bellen; the President of Mozambique, Filipe Jacinto Nyusi; the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dragan Čović; the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd); the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway, Ine Eriksen Søreide; the Minister of External Relations of Angola, Manuel Domingos Augusto; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, Gudlaugur Thór Thórdarson; the Minister of Justice of Uzbekistan, Ruslanbek Davletov; the Vice-Minister for Political and Multilateral Affairs of Brazil, Fernando Simas Magalhães; the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Portugal, Teresa Ribeiro.

(b) At the 2nd meeting, on the same day: the Chief Executive (Chairperson of the Council of the Ministers of the Government of Afghanistan), Abdullah Abdullah; the Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Mikheil Janelidze; the First Vice President of South Sudan, Taban Deng Gai; the Minister of Justice of Iraq, Haidar Al Zamily; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, Kang Kyung-wha; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Jorge Arreaza; the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad of Senegal, Sidiki Kaba; the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Peter Maurer; the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, Péter Szijjártó; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Liechtenstein, Aurelia Frick; the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, Sigrid Kaag; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Anders Samuelsen; the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador, Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés; the Minister for Human Rights of Yemen, Mohammed Mohsen Mohammed Askar; the Foreign Secretary of Nepal, Shankar Das Bairagi; the Secretary of Human Rights and Cultural Pluralism of Argentina, Claudio Bernardo Avruj.

(c) At the 4th meeting, on 27 February 2018: the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, Karl Erjavec; the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia, Marija Pejčinović Burić; the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Czechia, Martin Stropnický; the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain, Alfonso María Dastis Quecedo; the Minister of State for Human Rights of Morocco, Mostapha Ramid; the Minister of Education of Maldives, Aishath Shiham; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, Alan Peter S. Cayetano; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, Elmar Mammadyarov; the Minister of International Co-operation of Myanmar, Kyaw Tin; the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs of Zimbabwe, Ziyambi Ziyambi; the Deputy Minister for International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, Luwellyn Landers; the Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon; the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia, Ivan Korčok; the Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of Mexico, Miguel Ruiz Cabañas; the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Yousef A. Al Othaimen; the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, Hirut Zemene Kassa; the Assistant Minister for Human Rights and International Law of the United Arab Emirates, Ahmed Abdulrahman Al-Jarman; the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Darius Skusevičius; the Commissioner for Political Affairs of the African Union, Minata Samate Cessouma.

(d) At the 5th meeting, on the same day: the Third Vice Prime Minister of Equatorial Guinea, Charged with Human Rights, Alfonso Nsue Mokuy; the Deputy Attorney General of Lesotho, Tsebang Putsoane; the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Malta, Carmelo Abela; the Minister for the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Lilyana Pavlova; the Minister of Justice of Luxembourg, Félix Braz; the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, Alejandro Solano Ortiz; the State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Viktor Dimovski; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Sergiy Kyslytsya; the

Commissioner for Human Rights and Humanitarian Action of Mauritania, Cheikh Tourad Ould Abdel Malick; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Canada, Chrystia Freeland; the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Yerzhan Ashikbayev; the Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development of Ireland, Ciarán Cannon; the Director of Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Chile, Hernán Quezada; the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Patricia Scotland; the Director of International Organisations Division, Political Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia, Karmen Laus.

(e) At the 6th meeting, on the same day: the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, Edward Nalbandian; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, Sameh Hassan Shokry Selim; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Margot Wallström; the Minister for Human Rights of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Marie Ange Mushobekwa; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, Geoffrey Onyeama; the Minister of Justice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Seyyed Alireza Avaei; the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Algeria, Noureddine Ayadi; the Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid of Germany, Bärbel Kofler; the Vice-Minister of Multilateral Affairs and Cooperation of Panama, María Luisa Navarro; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, Adel Ahmed Al-Jubeir; the European Union Special Representative for Human Rights, Stavros Lambrinidis; the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Manabu Horii; the Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Martin Chungong.

(f) At the 7th meeting, on 28 February 2018: the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Andorra, Maria Ubach; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Sergey Lavrov; the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, Tudor Ulianoschi; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Monaco, Gilles Tonelli; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine, Riad Malki; the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Congolese Nationals Abroad of the Congo, Jean-Claude Gakosso; the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium, Didier Reynders; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania, George Ciamba; the Under-secretary of State for Foreign and Security Policy of Finland, Anne Sipiläinen; the Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bahrain, Abdulla Faisal Al-Doseri; the Minister for Relations with Constitutional Institutions and Civil Society and for Human Rights of Tunisia, Mehdi Ben Gharbia; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, Battsetseg Batmunkh; the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the State of Libya, Mohamed T. H. Siala; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey, Ahmet Yıldız; the Vice-Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania, Artemisa Dralo; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand, Don Pramudwinai.

(g) At the 8th meeting, on the same day: the Member of the Senate Committees of Pakistan on Foreign Affairs, and Law and Justice, Ayesha Raza Farooq; the Director-General of the International Development Law Organization, Irene Khan; the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of International Organization Affairs of the United States of America, Mary Catherine Phee.

### **High-level panel on human rights mainstreaming**

9. At the 3rd meeting, on 26 February 2018, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21, the Council held a high-level panel discussion to interact with heads of governing bodies and secretariats of United Nations agencies within their respective mandates on specific human rights themes with the objective of promoting the mainstreaming of human rights throughout the United Nations system, with a focus on “promotion and protection of human rights in the light of the universal periodic review mechanism: challenges and opportunities”.

10. The President of the General Assembly, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (by video message) made opening statements for the panel. The United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights moderated the discussion.

11. At the same meeting, the following panellists made statements: the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Achim Steiner (by video message); the Chair of the Development Assistance Committee at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Charlotte Petri Gornitzka (by audio message); the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador, María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés; the former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson. The Council divided the panel discussion into two slots.

12. During the ensuing panel discussion for the first slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Angola, Brazil (on behalf of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries), Indonesia<sup>1</sup> (also on behalf of Australia, Mexico, the Republic of Korea and Turkey), Portugal<sup>2</sup> (also on behalf of Angola, Australia, the Bahamas, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Georgia, Haiti, Italy, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, the Republic of Korea, Seychelles, Slovenia, Sweden, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia and Uruguay), South Africa, Togo (on behalf of the African Group), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Estonia (also on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden), Israel, Lesotho;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observer for a national human rights institution: Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Centre catholique international de Genève (also on behalf of Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII; Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities); Catholic International Education Office; Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul; Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd; Edmund Rice International Limited; Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale ONLUS; International Federation of ACAT (Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture); International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development – VIDES; Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco; Mouvement International d’Apostolate des Milieux Sociaux Independants; VIVAT International; World Evangelical Alliance); International Lesbian and Gay Association.

13. During the discussion for the second slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: China, Iraq, Nepal, Tunisia, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Botswana, France, Greece, Honduras, Morocco, Sierra Leone;

(c) Observer for a national human rights institution: Commission nationale des droits de l’homme (NHRI of Mauritania);

<sup>1</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>2</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Friends World Committee for Consultation; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik.

14. At the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

#### **D. General segment**

15. At the 8th meeting, on 28 February 2018, a general segment was held, during which the following addressed the Human Rights Council:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Brazil (on behalf of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries), China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Cyprus, France, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, Oman, Serbia, Syrian Arab Republic, Viet Nam;

(c) Observers for intergovernmental organizations: Gulf Cooperation Council, United Nations Development Programme;

(d) Observer for a national human rights institution: Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (by video message);

(e) Invited members of civil society: Khadija Ismayilova (by video message), Gofran Sawalha, Jeanne Sarson, Nicholas Opiyo, Rosette B. Adera.

16. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Chile, Cyprus, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Pakistan, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates (also on behalf of Bahrain, Egypt and Saudi Arabia) and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

17. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of a second right of reply were made by the representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

#### **E. Agenda and programme of work**

18. At the 1st meeting, on the 26 February 2018, the Human Rights Council adopted the agenda and programme of work of the thirty-seventh session.

#### **F. Organization of work**

19. At the 1st meeting, on the 26 February 2018, the Council decided to reduce the duration of panel discussions from 3 to 2 hours, with a maximum total of one hour allocated to the podium. This urgent and extraordinary measure took immediate effect and will be applied to all panel discussions to be held in 2018, beginning with the current session.

20. At the same meeting, the President referred to the introduction of a web-based online system for inscription to the lists of speakers for all general debates, individual and clustered interactive dialogues at the thirty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council. He also referred to the modalities and schedule of the online inscription which was launched on 21 February 2018.

21. Also at the same meeting, in relation to the draft programme of work, the Council decided to hold a discussion on the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the late Asma Jahangir, on 12 March 2018, in place of

the interactive dialogue scheduled for that day. The report was submitted to the Council in accordance with Resolution 34/23, together with the comments provided by the concerned country on the report. The report was transmitted to the Council by the Chair of the Coordination Committee who took note of the comments made by the delegations during the discussion (see chapter IV, section H).

22. At the 3rd meeting, on the same day, the President outlined the speaking time modalities for panel discussions, which would be two minutes for States Members of the Council, observer States and other observers.

23. At the 8th meeting, on 28 February 2018, the President outlined the modalities for interactive dialogues with special procedures mandate holders under agenda item 3, which would be two minutes for States Members of the Council, observer States and other observers.

24. Also at the same meeting, the President outlined the modalities for the clustered interactive dialogues with special procedures mandate holders under agenda item 3, pursuant to the practice introduced at the twenty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council. The total duration of each clustered interactive dialogue would not exceed four hours. Each special procedures mandate holder in a cluster would introduce their reports within 15 minutes and respond to questions and make concluding remarks within 15 minutes. As soon as the preliminary lists of speakers would be available following the electronic registration, the secretariat would calculate the estimated time needed to complete the clustered interactive dialogue with the mandate holders. Should the total duration of a given interactive dialogue be estimated to last less than four hours, the speaking time limits would be five minutes for States Members and three minutes for observer States and other observers. However, if it would be estimated to be more than four hours, the speaking time limits would be reduced to three minutes for States Members and two minutes for observer States and other observers. Should this measure be deemed insufficient to ensure that the total duration not exceed four hours, the speaking time limit would be further reduced, with a minimum of 1 minute and 30 seconds per speaker.

25. At the 13th meeting, on 3 March 2018, the President outlined the modalities for the urgent debate on the situation of Eastern Ghouta in the Syrian Arab Republic, which would be 2 minutes and 30 seconds for States Members of the Council and 1 minute and 30 seconds for observer States and other observers.

26. At 25th meeting, on 8 March 2018, the President outlined the speaking time modalities for the general debates, which would be 2 minutes and 30 seconds for States Members of the Council and 1 minute and 30 seconds for observer States and other observers.

27. At the 28th meeting, on 12 March 2018, the President outlined the modalities for individual interactive dialogues on item 4, with special procedures mandate holders, which would be two minutes for States Members of the Council, observer States and other observers.

28. At the same meeting, on the same day, the President outlined the modalities for the discussion of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, which would be two minutes for States Members of the Council, observer States and other observers.

29. At the 30th meeting, on 12 March 2018, the President outlined the modalities for enhanced interactive dialogues on item 4, with special procedures mandate holders, which would be two minutes for States Members of the Council, observer States and other observers.

30. At the 37th meeting, on 15 March 2018, the President outlined the modalities for the consideration of the outcomes of the universal periodic review under agenda item 6, which would be 20 minutes for the State concerned to present its views; where appropriate, 2 minutes for the national human rights institution with "A" status of the State concerned; up

to 20 minutes for States Members of the Human Rights Council, observer States and United Nations agencies to express their views on the outcome of the review, with varying speaking times according to the number of speakers in accordance with the modalities set out in the Appendix to resolution 16/21; and up to 20 minutes for stakeholders with speaking time of 2 minutes for all to make general comments on the outcome of the review.

## **G. Meetings and documentation**

31. The Human Rights Council held 56 fully serviced meetings during its thirty-seventh session.<sup>3</sup>

32. The list of the resolutions, decisions and President's statement adopted by the Human Rights Council is contained in part one of the present report.

## **H. Visits**

33. At the 18th meeting, on 5 March 2018, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cameroon, Lejeune Mbella Mbella, delivered a statement to the Human Rights Council.

34. At the 49th meeting, on 21 March 2018, the Minister of Justice of New Zealand, Andrew Little, delivered a statement to the Human Rights Council.

## **I. Urgent debate on the situation of Eastern Ghouta in the Syrian Arab Republic**

35. At the 13th meeting, on 2 March 2018, the President of the Human Rights Council announced that on 1 March 2018, he received a request from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to convene an urgent debate on the situation of Eastern Ghouta in the Syrian Arab Republic.

36. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made a statement to introduce the proposal.

37. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Australia, China, Cuba, South Africa, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), made statements in connection with the holding of the urgent debate. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement as the State concerned.

38. At the same meeting, at the request of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), a recorded vote was taken on the proposal to hold the urgent debate. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Against:*

China, Cuba, Iraq, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Abstaining:*

---

<sup>3</sup> The proceedings of the thirty-third session of the Human Rights Council can be followed through the United Nations archived Webcasts of the Council sessions (<http://webtv.un.org>).

Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Philippines, Tunisia

39. At the same meeting, by 25 votes to 4, with 8 abstentions, the Council decided to hold the urgent debate at its 15th meeting, on 2 March 2018.<sup>4</sup>

40. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote. The representative of the Russian Federation made a general comment.

41. At its 15th meeting, on 2 March 2018, the Council held an urgent debate on the on the situation of Eastern Ghouta in the Syrian Arab Republic.

42. At the same meeting, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made a statement for the urgent debate.

43. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement as the State concerned.

44. During the ensuing discussion, at the same meeting, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Angola, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria<sup>5</sup> (on behalf of the European Union), Chile, China, Cuba, Egypt, Germany, Iraq, Japan, Mexico, Nepal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Bahrain, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Canada, Costa Rica, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Sweden (also on behalf of Kuwait), Turkey, Uruguay;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International; Association of World Citizens; Conseil International pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux Droits de l'Homme; Human Rights Watch; International Commission of Jurists; International Federation for Human Rights Leagues; Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme; Union of Arab Jurists; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

## **J. Selection and appointment of mandate holders**

45. At its 56th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the Council appointed nine special procedures mandate holders in accordance with Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21 and its decision 6/102 (see annex IV).

## **K. Consideration of and action on draft proposals**

### **The deteriorating situation of human rights in Eastern Ghouta, in the Syrian Arab Republic**

46. At the 15th meeting, on 2 March 2018, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.1, sponsored by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and co-sponsored by Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, the

<sup>4</sup> The delegations of Afghanistan, Burundi, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa and Togo did not cast a vote.

<sup>5</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Sweden and the United States of America. Subsequently, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and Ukraine joined the sponsors.

47. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland orally revised the draft resolution.

48. At the same meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation introduced amendments A/HRC/37/L.2, A/HRC/37/L.3, A/HRC/37/L.4, A/HRC/37/L.5 to draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.1 as orally revised. The representative of South Africa introduced amendments A/HRC/37/L.6, A/HRC/37/L.7, A/HRC/37/L.8, A/HRC/37/L.9 to draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.1. as orally revised.

49. Amendments A/HRC/37/L.2, A/HRC/37/L.3, A/HRC/37/L.4, A/HRC/37/L.5 were sponsored by the Russian Federation and co-sponsored by Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Amendments A/HRC/37/L.6, A/HRC/37/L.7, A/HRC/37/L.8, A/HRC/37/L.9 were sponsored by South Africa.

50. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made a statement in relation to the proposed amendments to draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.1 as orally revised.

51. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a general comment in relation to the draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.1 as orally revised, as well as on the proposed amendments.

52. At the same meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement as the State concerned.

53. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution. The Chief of the Programme Support and Management Services of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made a statement in relation to the budgetary implications of the draft resolution as orally revised.

54. At the 16th meeting, on 5 March 2018, South Africa withdrew amendments A/HRC/37/L.5, A/HRC/37/L.6, A/HRC/37/L.7, A/HRC/37/L.8, A/HRC/37/L.9 to the draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.1 as orally revised.

55. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland orally revised the draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.1 as orally revised.

56. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made a general comment in relation to the draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.1 as orally revised, as well as on the proposed amendments.

57. At the same meeting, the Council took action on amendments A/HRC/37/L.2, A/HRC/37/L.3, A/HRC/37/L.4 and A/HRC/37/L.5 (see also paras. 58 – 69 below)

58. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Germany, Mexico and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made statements in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to amendment A/HRC/37/L.2. The representative of Brazil sought clarification on the text of the amendment to draft resolution under consideration.

59. At the same meeting, at the request of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a recorded vote was taken on amendment A/HRC/37/L.2. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*



Brazil, Burundi, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Iraq, Pakistan, Tunisia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Against:*

Australia, Belgium, Chile, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, United Arab Emirates

60. Amendment A/HRC/37/L.2 was rejected by 10 votes to 19, with 17 abstentions.<sup>6</sup>

61. At the same meeting, the representatives of the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to amendment A/HRC/37/L.3.

62. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a recorded vote was taken on amendment A/HRC/37/L.3. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Brazil, Burundi, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Iraq, Pakistan, Tunisia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Against:*

Australia, Belgium, Chile, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, United Arab Emirates

63. Amendment A/HRC/37/L.3 was rejected by 9 votes to 19, with 18 abstentions.<sup>7</sup>

64. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to amendment A/HRC/37/L.4.

65. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a recorded vote was taken on amendment A/HRC/37/L.4. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Burundi, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Iraq, Pakistan, Panama, Tunisia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Against:*

Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

<sup>6</sup> The delegation of Kenya did not cast a vote.

<sup>7</sup> The delegation of Kenya did not cast a vote.

Afghanistan, Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippines, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, United Arab Emirates

66. Amendment A/HRC/37/L.4 was rejected by 9 votes to 20, with 17 abstentions.<sup>8</sup>

67. At the same meeting, the representative of Belgium made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to amendment A/HRC/37/L.5.

68. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a recorded vote was taken on amendment A/HRC/37/L.5. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Burundi, China, Cuba, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Against:*

Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia

69. Amendment A/HRC/37/L.5 was rejected by 4 votes to 23, with 19 abstentions.<sup>9</sup>

70. At the same meeting, the Council took action on draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.1 as orally revised.

71. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Australia, Egypt, Iraq, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Tunisia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.1 as orally revised.

72. At the same meeting, at the request of the representatives of China and Cuba a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.1 as orally revised. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Against:*

Burundi, China, Cuba, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Abstaining:*

Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa

---

<sup>8</sup> The delegation of Kenya did not cast a vote.

<sup>9</sup> The delegation of Kenya did not cast a vote.

73. The draft resolution as orally revised was adopted by 29 votes to 4, with 14 abstentions (resolution 37/1).

74. At the same meeting, the representatives of France, the Russian Federation and the Syrian Arab Republic made statements as observer States with regard to the adopted resolution.

## **L. Adoption of the report of the session**

75. At the 56th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representatives of the Netherlands (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Ghana, Georgia, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, the Niger, Norway, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Zambia) and the Russian Federation made statements as observer States with regard to adopted resolutions.

76. At the same meeting, the Vice-President and Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council made a statement in connection with the draft report of the Council on its thirty-seventh session.

77. Also at the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft report (A/HRC/37/2) ad referendum and decided to entrust the Rapporteur with its finalization.

78. At the same meeting, the following made statements in connection with the session:

- (a) Representative of a State Member of the Human Rights Council: Brazil;
- (b) Representative of an observer State: Canada;
- (c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: International Service for Human Rights; Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme.

79. Also at the same meeting, the President of the Human Rights Council made a closing statement.

## II. Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

### A. Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

80. At the 22nd meeting, on 7 March 2018, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made a statement in connection with his annual report (A/HRC/37/3).

81. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 24th to 25th meetings, on 8 March 2018, the following made statements and asked the High Commissioner questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Afghanistan, Angola, Australia, Australia (also on behalf of Afghanistan, Angola, Chile, Mexico, Peru, Senegal, Slovakia, Spain and Ukraine), Belgium, Brazil, Chile, China, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iraq, Japan, Jordan<sup>10</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Kenya, Mexico, Morocco<sup>11</sup> (also on behalf of Bahrain, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and the United Arab Emirates), Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan (also on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Peru (also on behalf of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and Paraguay), Peru (also on behalf of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay), Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda (also on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Timor-Leste<sup>12</sup> (also on behalf of Algeria, Angola, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Ecuador, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe), Togo (on behalf of the Group of African States), Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (also on behalf of Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and the United States of America), United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Bahrain, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, El Salvador, Fiji, Finland, France, Greece, Honduras, Iceland, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Maldives, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Niger, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Zambia;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

<sup>10</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>11</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>12</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

(d) Observer for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc; Article 19 - International Centre Against Censorship, The; Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development; Association Internationale pour l'égalité des femmes; Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, Asociación Civil; Human Rights Watch; International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR) (also on behalf of Centre pour les Droits Civils et Politiques - Centre CCPR; Child Rights Connect; Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; International Disability Alliance; International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific and World Organisation Against Torture); International Service for Human Rights.

82. At the 25th meeting, on 8 March 2018, the High Commissioner answered questions and made comments and made his concluding remarks.

83. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Algeria, Burundi, China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, India, Maldives, Morocco, Pakistan, the Philippines and Turkmenistan.

84. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of a second right of reply were made by the representatives of Algeria and Morocco.

## **B. Reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

85. At the 25th meeting, on 8 March 2018, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, presented thematic reports prepared by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Secretary-General under agenda items 2 and 3.

86. At the same meeting, on the same day, and at the 26th meetings, on 9 March 2018, the Council held a general debate on thematic reports under agenda items 2 and 3, presented by the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights (see chapter III, section E).

87. At the 44th meeting, on 20 March 2018, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights presented reports prepared by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary-General under agenda items 2 and 7.

88. At the 46th meeting, on 20 March 2018, the Chief of the Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights presented the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights under agenda items 2 and 9.

89. At the 47th meeting, on 20 March 2018, and at the 48th on 21 March 2018, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights presented the reports of the High Commissioner under items 2 and 10 (see Chapter X, sections B and C).

90. At the 49th meeting, on 21 March 2018, the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights presented the report of the High Commissioner under items 2 and 10 (see Chapter X, section D).

91. At the 50th meeting, on 21 March 2018, the Deputy United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights introduced country-specific reports submitted by the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights under agenda item 2 (A/HRC/37/3/Add.1-3, A/HRC/37/22, A/HRC/37/23, A/HRC/37/24).

92. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, Pablo de Greiff, made a statement.

93. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Burundi, Colombia, Cyprus, Guatemala, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Sri Lanka made statements as the States concerned.

94. During the ensuing general debate, at the 50th meeting, on 21 March 2018, and at the 51st meeting, on 22 March 2018, the following made statements and asked the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria<sup>13</sup> (on behalf of the European Union), Georgia, Germany, New Zealand<sup>14</sup> (also on behalf of Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America), Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (also on behalf of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and the United States of America), United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Canada, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Turkey, United Republic of Tanzania;

(c) Observer for a United Nations entity, specialized agency and related organization: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action contre la faim; Advocates for Human Rights; American Association of Jurists (also on behalf of France Libertes: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand; International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL); International Fellowship of Reconciliation; International-Lawyers.Org and Liberation); Amnesty International; Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development; Association Bharathi Centre Culturel Franco-Tamoul; Association Culturelle des Tamouls en France; Association d'Entraide Médicale Guinée; Association des étudiants tamouls de France; Association of World Citizens; Association pour les Victimes Du Monde; Association Solidarité Internationale pour l'Afrique (SIA); Association Thendral; Center for Organisation Research and Education; Centre Europe - Tiers Monde - Europe-Third World Centre; CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation; Colombian Commission of Jurists; Conseil de jeunesse pluriculturelle (COJEP); Conseil International pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux Droits de l'Homme; Corporacion para la Defensa y Promocion de los Derechos Humanos Reiniciar; Dominicans for Justice and Peace - Order of Preachers; FIAN International e.V.; Franciscans International; Fundación Latinoamericana por los Derechos Humanos y el Desarrollo Social; Human Rights Watch; International Buddhist Relief Organisation; International Catholic Child Bureau; International Commission of Jurists; International Federation for Human Rights Leagues; International Fellowship of Reconciliation; International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR); International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; International Service for Human Rights (also on behalf of Colombian Commission of Jurists); International-Lawyers.Org; Le Pont; Liberation; L'Observatoire Mauritanien des Droits de l'Homme et de la Démocratie; Lutheran World Federation; Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association; Oidhaco, Bureau International des Droits Humains - Action Colombie; Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation; Peace Brigades International Switzerland; Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme; Réseau International des Droits Humains (RIDH); Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund (also on behalf of Humanist Institute for Co-operation with Developing Countries); Tamil Uzhagam;

<sup>13</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>14</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

Tourner la page; United Nations Watch; United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation; VAAGDHARA; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik; World Barua Organization (WBO); World Organisation against Torture.

95. At the 50th meeting, on 21 March 2018, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Cambodia, Cyprus and Turkey.

96. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of the second right of reply were made by the representatives of Turkey.

97. At the 51st meeting, on 22 March 2018, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Bahrain, Cuba, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Israel.

### III. Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

#### A. Panels

##### **High-level panel discussion on the seventieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action**

98. At the 9th meeting, on 28 February 2018, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 35/1, the Council held a high-level panel discussion to mark the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 25th anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

99. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Director of the Department for Humanitarian Cooperation and Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Foreign Ministry Commissioner for Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law, Anatoly Victorov, made opening statements for the panel. President of the Human Rights Council moderated the discussion for the panel.

100. At the same meeting, the following panellists made statements: the Special Representative for the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship for 2017, and the former Special Representative and Ambassador for the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights, Christian Strohal; the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, Leilani Farha; the member of the Human Rights Committee and the former Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Christof Heyns; the Senior Advisor at Women Political Leaders Global Network and the former member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Şafak Pavey. The Council divided the panel discussion into two slots.

101. During the ensuing panel discussion for the first slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Australia (also on behalf of Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland), Belgium (also on behalf of Luxembourg and the Netherlands), Canada<sup>15</sup> (on behalf of the States Members and observers of the International Organization of la Francophonie), Chile (also on behalf of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay), China (also on behalf of Algeria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Egypt, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe), Indonesia<sup>16</sup> (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Jordan<sup>17</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Mexico (also on behalf of Colombia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Jordan, New Zealand and Norway), Republic of Korea (also on behalf of Australia, Indonesia, Mexico and Turkey), South Africa;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Denmark (also on behalf of Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden);

<sup>15</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>16</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>17</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.



- (c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;
- (d) Observer for a national human rights institution: Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (by video message);
- (e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL); International Service for Human Rights.

102. At the end of the first slot, at the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made comments.

103. During the discussion for the second slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Brazil, Egypt, Ethiopia, Nepal (also on behalf of Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Mozambique, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Sudan and Yemen), Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Togo (on behalf of the Group of African States);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Botswana, Israel, Poland, Viet Nam;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International; CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation; Human Rights Watch.

104. At the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

#### **Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child**

105. At its 16th meeting, on 5 March 2018, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 34/16, the Council held its annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child. The meeting focused on the theme “protecting the rights of the child in humanitarian situation”. The meeting was divided into two panel discussions: the first panel discussion was held at the 16th meeting, on 5 March 2018; the second panel discussion was held at the 18th meeting, on the same day.

106. The first panel discussion was held at the 16th meeting, on 5 March 2018. The topic of discussion was “How can we meet children’s needs and rights in humanitarian situations? Practices and lessons from different levels”. The United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights made an opening statement for the panel. The Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the European Union to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Carl Hallergard, moderated the discussion for the panel.

107. At the same meeting the following panellists made statements: the Director of International Law and Policy at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Helen Durham; the Director of the Geneva Office of Emergency Programmes, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Sikander Khan; the National Director of Plan International Colombia, Alejandro Gamboa; the Director of the Geneva Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Monica Ferro. The Council divided the panel discussion into two slots.

108. During the ensuing panel discussion for the first slot of the first panel, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Australia (also on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Cyprus, Czechia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay

and Zambia), Jordan<sup>18</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Norway<sup>19</sup> (also on behalf of Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay, Yemen, Zambia and the State of Palestine), Qatar, Senegal (on behalf of the States Members and observers of the International Organization of la Francophonie), Slovenia, Togo (on behalf of the Group of African States), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Bulgaria, Ireland, Latvia (also on behalf of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden);

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Conselho Indigenista Missionário CIMI; Plan International, Inc.; Save the Children International (also on behalf of Child Rights Connect; Defence for Children International; Foundation ECPAT International (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes); Geneva Infant Feeding Association; International Catholic Child Bureau; International Movement ATD Fourth World; International Social Service; Plan International, Inc.; Stichting War Child and Women's World Summit Foundation).

109. At the end of the first slot, at the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made comments.

110. During the discussion for the second slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Belgium, Brazil, Georgia, Mexico, Mongolia, Philippines, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: India, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Holy See;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Human Rights Watch; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik; World Environment and Resources Council (WERC).

111. At the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

112. The second panel discussion was held at the 18th meeting, on the same day. The topic of discussion was "How can States and the international community be more accountable to children in humanitarian situations?" The Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Ricardo González Arenas, moderated the discussion for the panel.

113. At the same meeting, the following panellists made statements: the Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Gehad Madi; the Head of the Monitoring and Reporting Team at the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Nicolas Gérard; the Global Lead for Disaster Management, World Vision International, Justin Byworth; the Deputy Director of the Division of International Protection at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Shahrzad Tadjbakhsh. The Council divided the second panel discussion into two slots, both held at the 18th meeting, on the same day.

114. During the ensuing panel discussion for the first slot of the second panel, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

<sup>18</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States

<sup>19</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States

- (a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Chile, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Spain, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);
- (b) Representatives of observer States: Azerbaijan, France, Jordan, Uruguay;
- (c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;
- (d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Center for Reproductive Rights, Inc., The; European Union of Public Relations; International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM).

115. At the end of the first slot for the second panel, at the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made comments.

116. During the ensuing panel discussion for the second slot of the second panel, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

- (a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Afghanistan, Angola, Australia, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Iraq, Switzerland;
- (b) Representatives of observer States: Honduras, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;
- (c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: Council of Europe;
- (d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: African Regional Agricultural Credit Association; Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc; Association of World Citizens.

117. At the same meeting, the panellists of the second panel answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

#### **Annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities**

118. At its 23rd meeting, on 7 March 2018, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 31/6, the Council held its annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities in the form of a panel discussion. The focus of the discussion was on article 13 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on access to justice.

119. The United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights made an opening statement for the panel. The Vice-President of the Human Rights Council chaired the panel discussion.

120. At the same meeting, the following panellists made statements: the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, María Soledad Cisternas; the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Catalina Devandas Aguilar; the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Theresia Degener; the representative of the African Disability Forum and International Disability Alliance, Oumarou Siddo Nouhou; the Executive Vice-President of CERMI Women's Foundation and Vice-President of the European Disability Forum, Ana Peláez Narváez. The Council divided the panel discussion into two slots.

121. During the ensuing panel discussion for the first slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

- (a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Egypt, Jordan<sup>20</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Mexico, Mexico (also on behalf of

<sup>20</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

Australia, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and Turkey), Pakistan, Singapore<sup>21</sup> (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Timor-Leste<sup>22</sup> (on behalf of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries), Togo (on behalf of the Group of African States), United Arab Emirates, United States of America;

(b) Representative of an observer State: Finland (also on behalf of Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden);

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observer for a national human rights institution: Australian Human Rights Commission (by video message);

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Center for Reproductive Rights, Inc., The; Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, The.

122. At the end of the first slot, at the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made comments.

123. During the discussion for the second slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, Ecuador, Iraq, Slovenia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Azerbaijan, Greece, India, Israel, Namibia, New Zealand, Paraguay;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action Canada for Population and Development; International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development – VIDES (also on behalf of Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco); Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture.

124. At the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

## **B. Interactive dialogue with special procedures mandate holders**

### **Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living**

125. At the 8th meeting, on 28 February 2018, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, Leilani Farha, presented her reports (A/HRC/37/53 and Add.1).

126. At the same meeting, the representative of Chile, made a statement as the State concerned.

127. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 10th meeting, on 1 March 2018, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, Brazil, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Germany, Iraq, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, Spain, Togo (also on behalf of the Group of African States), Tunisia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

---

<sup>21</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>22</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

(b) Representatives of observer States: Argentina, Bahrain, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Finland, France, Honduras, India, Malaysia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International; Association of World Citizens; Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities); Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos; Asociación Civil; Human Rights Now; Pan African Union for Science and Technology; United Schools International; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik.

128. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

**Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights**

129. At the 8th meeting, on 28 February 2018, the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky, presented his reports (A/HRC/37/54 and Add.1-3).

130. At the same meeting, the representatives of Panama, Switzerland and Tunisia made statements as the States concerned.

131. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 10th meeting, on 1 March 2018, the following made statements and asked the Independent Expert questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Brazil, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Iraq, Pakistan, South Africa, Togo (also on behalf of the Group of African States), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational States of), Greece, Honduras, Kuwait, Malaysia, Morocco, Namibia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Holy See;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc; Center for Economic and Social Rights, The; Conectas Direitos Humanos (also on behalf of Instituto de Estudos Socioeconomicos – INESC and Oxfam Brasil); International Bar Association; International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM).

132. At the same meeting, the Independent Expert answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

133. At the 12th meeting, on 1 March 2018, statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of Brazil.

**Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders**

134. At the 10th meeting, on 1 March 2018, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Michel Forst, presented his reports (A/HRC/37/51 and Add.2-3).

135. At the same meeting, the representatives of Australia and Mexico made statements as the States concerned.

136. Also at the same meeting, the national human rights institutions, Australian Human Rights Commission and National Human Rights Commission of Mexico, made statements (by video messages).

137. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 11th meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Afghanistan, Austria<sup>23</sup> (also on behalf of Liechtenstein, Slovenia and Switzerland), Belgium, Brazil, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ecuador, Georgia, Germany, Iraq, Pakistan, Spain, Togo, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Armenia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, France, Honduras, Ireland, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Singapore, Uganda;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observer for a national human rights institution: Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (by video message);

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development; Asian Legal Resource Centre; Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, Asociación Civil; Conectas Direitos Humanos; Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit – COC Nederland; Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights; Human Rights Law Centre; International Commission of Jurists (also on behalf of International Bar Association and Union Internationale des Avocats – International Union of Lawyers); International Federation of ACAT (Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture); International Service for Human Rights; Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund; World Organisation Against Torture.

138. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

139. At the 12th meeting, on 1 March 2018, statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of China.

### **Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**

140. At the 11th meeting, on 1 March 2018, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Nils Melzer, presented his reports (A/HRC/37/50 and Add.1).

141. At the same meeting, the representative of Turkey made a statement as the State concerned.

142. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Afghanistan, Australia, China, Cuba, Egypt, Germany, Iraq, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Switzerland, Togo (on behalf of the Group of African States), Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

<sup>23</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

(b) Representatives of observer States: Bahrain, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, France, Honduras, Ireland, Maldives, Montenegro, Portugal, Thailand;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observer for a national human rights institution: Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Article 19 – International Centre Against Censorship, The; International Federation of ACAT (Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture); Asian Legal Resource Centre; Association for the Prevention of Torture; Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, Asociación Civil; Conectas Direitos Humanos; Defence for Children International; Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund; World Organisation Against Torture.

143. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

144. At the 12th meeting, on 1 March 2018, statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of Brazil.

### **Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism**

145. At the 12th meeting, on 1 March 2018, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, presented her report (A/HRC/37/52).

146. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, on the same day, and at the 13th meeting, on 2 March 2018, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, Belgium, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Egypt, Iraq, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Spain, Togo (on behalf of the Group of African States), Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International; Article 19 - International Centre Against Censorship, The; Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism; Canners International Permanent Committee; Center for Environmental and Management Studies; CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation; Commission to Study the Organization of Peace; Ensemble contre la Peine de Mort; International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM); Iraqi Development Organization; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik.

147. At the 12th meeting, on 1 March 2018, and at the 13th meeting, on 2 March 2018, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

### **Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights**

148. At the 12th meeting, on 1 March 2018, the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennouna, presented her reports (A/HRC/37/50 and Add.1).

149. At the same meeting, the representative of Serbia made a statement as the State concerned.

150. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, on the same day, and at the 13th meeting, on 2 March 2018, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, Iraq, Jordan<sup>24</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Pakistan, Peru, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Togo (on behalf of the Group of African States), Tunisia, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Djibouti, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Malaysia, Morocco, Norway, Russian Federation, Holy See;

(c) Observer for a United Nations entity, specialized agency and related organization: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Asociacion Cubana de las Naciones Unidas (Cuban United Nations Association); Association of World Citizens; International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM); International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (OIDEI) (also on behalf of Catholic International Education Office); Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik.

151. At the 12th meeting, on 1 March 2018, and at the 13th meeting, on 2 March 2018, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

### **Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief**

152. At the 13th meeting, on 2 March 2018, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Ahmed Shaheed, presented his reports (A/HRC/37/49 and Add.1-2).

153. At the same meeting, the representatives of Albania and Uzbekistan made statements as the States concerned.

154. Also at the same meeting, the national human rights institution, People's Advocate of Albania made a statement (by video message).

155. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, on the same day, and on the 14th meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Angola, Australia, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Hungary, Iraq, Mexico, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Switzerland, Togo (on behalf of the Group of African States), Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

---

<sup>24</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.



(b) Representatives of observer States: Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Canada, Denmark, Eritrea, France, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Libya, Myanmar, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Sudan, Holy See, State of Palestine;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observer for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Alliance Defending Freedom; Alsalam Foundation; Article 19 - International Centre Against Censorship, The; Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development; British Humanist Association; Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights; Minority Rights Group; World Evangelical Alliance.

156. At the 14th meeting, on 2 March 2018, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

### **Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence**

157. At the 14th meeting, on 2 March 2018, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, Pablo de Greiff and the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, Adama Dieng, presented their joint study on the contribution of transitional justice to the prevention of gross violations and abuses of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law, including genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, and their recurrence (A/HRC/37/65).

158. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 14th meeting, on 2 March 2018, and at the 17th meeting, on 5 March 2018, following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur and Special Adviser of the Secretary-General questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Argentina<sup>25</sup> (also on behalf of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay), Australia, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Iraq, Netherlands<sup>26</sup> (also on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechia, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay), Switzerland, Togo (also on behalf of the Group of African States), United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, France, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Uruguay;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observer for the International Committee of the Red Cross;

(e) Observer for a national human rights institution: Conseil national des droits de l'homme (NHRI Morocco);

(f) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc; Asian Legal Resource Centre; Association Internationale pour

<sup>25</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>26</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

l'égalité des femmes; Association of World Citizens; Center for Global Nonkilling; Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, Asociación Civil; International Commission of Jurists; International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM).

159. At the 14th meeting, on 2 March 2018, and at the 17th meeting, on 5 March 2018, the Special Rapporteur and Special Adviser of the Secretary-General answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

160. At the 17th meeting, on 5 March 2018, statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of Nepal.

**Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment**

161. At the 17th meeting, on 5 March 2018, the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, John H. Knox, presented his reports (A/HRC/37/58 and Add.1-2).

162. At the same meeting, the representatives of Mongolia and Uruguay made statements as the States concerned.

163. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: China, Costa Rica<sup>27</sup> (also on behalf of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Uruguay), Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, Jordan<sup>28</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Slovenia, Switzerland, Togo (on behalf of the Group of African States), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Costa Rica, France, Gabon, Greece, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Maldives, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (also on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas and Haiti), Sudan, State of Palestine;

(c) Observers for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc; Amnesty International; Chant du Guépard dans le Désert; Earthjustice; Friends World Committee for Consultation; Human Rights Watch (also on behalf of Amnesty International; Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) and Earthjustice); Indian Council of South America (CISA); Make Mothers Matter – MMM; Organization for Defending Victims of Violence; Terre Des Hommes Federation Internationale.

164. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

---

<sup>27</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States

<sup>28</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

### Special Rapporteur on the right to food

165. At the 17th meeting, on 5 March 2018, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Hilal Elver, presented her reports (A/HRC/37/61 and Add.1).

166. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: China, Cuba, Iraq, Jordan<sup>29</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, Switzerland, Togo (also on behalf of the Group of African States), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, France, Gabon, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Sudan, Turkey, Viet Nam;

(c) Observer for a United Nations entity, specialized agency and related organization: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Asian Legal Resource Centre; FIAN International e.V.; Franciscans International (also on behalf of Dominicans for Justice and Peace - Order of Preachers; Genève pour les droits de l'homme: formation internationale and VIVAT International); Indian Council of South America (CISA); International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM); World Barua Organization (WBO).

167. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

168. Also at the same meeting, statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of Indonesia.

### Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy

169. At the 19th meeting, on 6 March 2018, the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy, Joe Cannataci, presented his report (A/HRC/37/62).

170. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, Brazil (also on behalf of Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein and Mexico), China, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Iraq, Japan, Pakistan, Togo (on behalf of the Group of African States), Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), France, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Morocco, Paraguay, Russian Federation;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Asian Legal Resource Centre; Association for Progressive Communications (APC); Iraqi Development Organization; Privacy International.

<sup>29</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

171. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

### **Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children**

172. At the 19th meeting, on 6 March 2018, the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, presented her reports (A/HRC/37/60 and Add.1).

173. At the same meeting, the representative of the Dominican Republic made a statement as the State concerned.

174. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Iraq, Mexico, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, South Africa, Togo (also on behalf of the Group of African States), Tunisia, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Greece, Honduras, India, Ireland, Israel, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Sudan, Thailand;

(c) Observer for a United Nations entity, specialized agency and related organization: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(e) Observer for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta;

(f) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Alliance Defending Freedom; Asian Legal Resource Centre; Association of World Citizens; Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII (also on behalf of Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul; Edmund Rice International Limited; International Catholic Child Bureau; International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development – VIDES; Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco; La Manif Pour Tous; Make Mothers Matter – MMM; Mouvement International d'Apostolate des Milieux Sociaux Independants and World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations); Center for Reproductive Rights, Inc., The (also on behalf of Child Rights Connect and International Federation for Human Rights Leagues); European Centre for Law and Justice, The; Human Rights Advocates Inc.; Human Rights Now; International Buddhist Relief Organisation; International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; Jossour Forum des Femmes Marocaines; Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture.

175. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

### **Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities**

176. At the 21st meeting, on 6 March 2018, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Catalina Devandas-Aguilar, presented her reports (A/HRC/37/56 and Add.1-2).

177. At the same meeting, the representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Kazakhstan made statements as the States concerned.

178. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 21st meeting, on 6 March 2018, and at the 23rd meeting, on 7 March 2018, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Afghanistan, Angola, Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Hungary, Jordan<sup>30</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Kenya, Mexico (also on behalf of Argentina, Costa Rica, Chile and Uruguay), Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Togo (also on behalf of the Group of African States), Tunisia, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Fiji, Finland, France, Greece, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Maldives, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sudan, Thailand, Viet Nam, State of Palestine;

(c) Observer for a United Nations entity, specialized agency and related organization: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action Canada for Population and Development; Alsalam Foundation; Association of World Citizens; International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development – VIDES (also on behalf of Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco); Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association; Plan International, Inc.; Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme; VAAGDHARA; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik; World Barua Organization (WBO).

179. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

#### **Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism**

180. At the 21st meeting, on 6 March 2018, the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism, Ikponwosa Ero, presented her reports (A/HRC/37/57 and Add.1).

181. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania made a statement as the State concerned.

182. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 21st meeting, on 6 March 2018, and at the 23rd meeting, on 7 March 2018, the following made statements and asked the Independent Expert questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, South Africa, Togo (on behalf of the Group of African States), Tunisia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Benin, Djibouti, Fiji, Israel, Portugal, Sierra Leone, Somalia;

(c) Observer for a United Nations entity, specialized agency and related organization: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organizations: European Union;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Association pour l'Intégration et le Développement Durable au Burundi; International Bar Association; Lutheran World Federation; Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme.

<sup>30</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

183. At the same meeting, the Independent Expert answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

184. At the 21st meeting, on 6 March 2018, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Israel and the Russian Federation.

#### **Special Rapporteur on minority issues**

185. At the 36th meeting, on 14 March 2018, the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Fernand de Varennes, presented his report (A/HRC/37/66).

186. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Afghanistan, Brazil (also on behalf of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Zambia), China, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Hungary, Iraq, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Senegal, Slovenia, Switzerland, Togo (on behalf of the Group of African States), Tunisia, Ukraine, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Austria, Greece, Montenegro, Myanmar, Romania, Russian Federation, Sudan;

(c) Observers for intergovernmental organizations: European Union, Organization of Islamic Cooperation;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Alsalam Foundation; Asian Legal Resource Centre; Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, Asociación Civil; International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism; International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (on behalf of Catholic International Education Office); Minority Rights Group; World Council of Arameans (Syriacs) (on behalf of Roads of Success); World Jewish Congress.

187. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

### **C. Interactive dialogue with Special Representatives of the Secretary-General**

#### **Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children**

188. At the 20th meeting, on 6 March 2018, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children, Marta Santos Pais, presented her report (A/HRC/37/48).

189. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 20th meeting, on 6 March 2018, and at the 22nd meeting, on 7 March 2018, the following made statements and asked the Special Representative questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Angola, Australia, Belgium, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Georgia, Germany, Iraq, Jordan<sup>31</sup> (on behalf of

---

<sup>31</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

the Group of Arab States), Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Togo (on behalf of the Group of African States), Tunisia, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Botswana, Djibouti, Estonia, France, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malaysia, Maldives, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Uruguay;

(c) Observer for a United Nations entity, specialized agency and related organization: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);

(d) Observers for intergovernmental organizations: Council of Europe, European Union;

(e) Observer for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta;

(f) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, The; Foundation ECPAT International (also on behalf of Child Rights Connect; International Catholic Child Bureau and Stichting War Child); Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture; Liberation; Make Mothers Matter – MMM; Terre Des Hommes Federation Internationale (also on behalf of Defence for Children International; Foundation ECPAT International and Plan International, Inc.); Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik; World Organisation Against Torture.

190. At the 20th meeting, on 6 March 2018, and at the 22nd meeting, on 7 March 2018, the Special Representative answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

#### **Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children and armed conflict**

191. At the 20th meeting, on 6 March 2018, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children and armed conflict, Virginia Gamba, presented her report (A/HRC/37/47).

192. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 20th meeting, on 6 March 2018, and at the 22nd meeting, on 7 March 2018, the following made statements and asked the Special Representative questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina<sup>32</sup> (also on behalf of Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay, Yemen, Zambia and the State of Palestine), Australia, Belgium, Belgium (also on behalf of Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay), China, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Georgia, Germany, Iraq, Jordan<sup>33</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Togo (on behalf of the Group of African States), Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Botswana, Canada, Colombia, Djibouti, Estonia, France, Italy, Libya,

<sup>32</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>33</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Morocco, Myanmar, Portugal, Russian Federation, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Uruguay, State of Palestine;

(c) Observer for a United Nations entity, specialized agency and related organization: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(e) Observer for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta;

(f) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Al-khoei Foundation; Asian Legal Resource Centre; Association of World Citizens; Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism; Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, The; Defence for Children International; Foundation ECPAT International (also on behalf of Child Rights Connect; Human Rights Now; International Catholic Child Bureau and Stichting War Child); Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture; Liberation; Plan International, Inc.; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik; World Organisation Against Torture.

193. At the 20th meeting, on 6 March 2018 and at the 22nd meeting on 7 March 2018, the Special Representative answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

194. At the 23rd meeting, on 7 March 2018, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

195. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of a second right of reply were made by the representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

#### **D. Open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights**

196. At the 25th meeting, on 8 March 2018, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 26/9, the Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Ecuador, Victor Arturo Cabrera Hidalgo, on behalf of Chairperson-Rapporteur of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights, with the mandate of elaborating an international legally binding instrument, presented the report on the working group's third session, held from 23 to 27 October 2017 (A/HRC/37/67).

#### **E. General debate on agenda item 3**

197. At its 25th meeting, on 8 March 2018, and at the 26th to 27th meetings, on 9 March 2018, the Council held a general debate on thematic reports under agenda items 2 and 3, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria<sup>34</sup> (on behalf of the European Union), China, Colombia<sup>35</sup> (also on behalf of Brazil, Mozambique, Portugal and Thailand), Cuba, Cyprus<sup>36</sup> (also on behalf of Argentina, Ethiopia, Greece, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Mali, Poland, Serbia and Switzerland), Ecuador (by video message), Egypt, Ghana<sup>37</sup> (also on behalf of Chile, Denmark, Indonesia and Morocco), Mexico, Mexico (also on behalf of Afghanistan, Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador,

<sup>34</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>35</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>36</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>37</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.



Honduras, Nepal, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, San Marino, Turkey and Uruguay), Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan (also on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Togo (on behalf of the Group of African States), Tunisia, Turkmenistan<sup>38</sup> (also on behalf of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Greece, Guyana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Jordan, Libya, Maldives, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Sudan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, State of Palestine;

(c) Observer for a United Nations entity, specialized agency and related organization: International Organization for Migration;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: Council of Europe;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Africa Culture Internationale; African Regional Agricultural Credit Association; Agence Internationale pour le Developpement; Al-khoei Foundation; Alliance Creative Community Project; Alsalam Foundation; American Association of Jurists; Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc; Asian Legal Resource Centre; Asian-Eurasian Human Rights Forum; Asociacion Cubana de las Naciones Unidas (Cuban United Nations Association); Association d'Entraide Médicale Guinée; Association for Progressive Communications (APC) (also on behalf of Article 19 - International Centre Against Censorship, The and Privacy International); Association Internationale pour l'égalité des femmes; Association of World Citizens; Association pour les Victimes Du Monde; Association pour l'Intégration et le Développement Durable au Burundi; Association Solidarité Internationale pour l'Afrique (SIA); Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII; Auspice Stella; BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights; British Humanist Association; Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace; Canners International Permanent Committee; Center for Environmental and Management Studies; Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL); Centre Europe - Tiers Monde - Europe-Third World Centre; Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy; Chant du Guépard dans le Désert; Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, The; Child Foundation; China Society for Human Rights Studies (CSHRS); CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation; Colombian Commission of Jurists; Commission africaine des promoteurs de la santé et des droits de l'homme; Commission to Study the Organization of Peace; Conectas Direitos Humanos; Conseil de jeunesse pluriculturelle (COJEP); Conseil International pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux Droits de l'Homme; Corporate Accountability International; European Centre for Law and Justice, The / Centre Europeen pour le droit, les Justice et les droits de l'homme; European Union of Public Relations; Family Health Association of Iran; FIAN International e.V. (also on behalf of Corporate Accountability International; Geneva Infant Feeding Association; Global Policy Forum and Society for International Development); France Libertes: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand; Franciscans International (also on behalf of Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities) and CIDSE); Friends of the Earth International; Fundación Latinoamericana por los Derechos Humanos y el Desarrollo Social; Fundacion Vida - Grupo Ecologico Verde; Global Action on Aging (also on behalf of International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations); Graduate Women International (GWI); Human Rights Advocates Inc.; Human Rights House Foundation; Human Rights Law Centre; Il Cenacolo; Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society; Indian Council of South America (CISA); Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru"; Institute for Policy Studies; International Association for Democracy in Africa; International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL); International Buddhist Relief Organisation; International Career Support Association; International Commission of Jurists;

<sup>38</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

International Educational Development, Inc.; International Federation for Human Rights Leagues; International Fellowship of Reconciliation; International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM); International Humanist and Ethical Union; International Muslim Women's Union; International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; International Organization of Employers; International Service for Human Rights (also on behalf of Amnesty International); International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations; International-Lawyers.Org; Iraqi Development Organization; Islamic Women's Institute of Iran; IUS PRIMI VIRI International Association; Japanese Workers' Committee for Human Rights; Jossour Forum des Femmes Marocaines; Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture; Liberation; L'Observatoire Mauritanien des Droits de l'Homme et de la Démocratie; Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development; Make Mothers Matter – MMM; Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association; Nouveaux droits de l'homme (NDH); Organisation pour la Communication en Afrique et de Promotion de la Coopération Economique Internationale - OCAPROCE Internationale; Organization for Defending Victims of Violence; Pan African Union for Science and Technology; Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation; Peace Brigades International Switzerland; Prahar; Presse Embleme Campagne; Prevention Association of Social Harms (PASH); Rencontre Africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme; Réseau International des Droits Humains (RIDH); Save a Child's Heart in Memory of Dr. Ami Cohen; Sikh Human Rights Group; Society for Threatened Peoples; Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development of Environment; Tourner la page; Union of Arab Jurists; United Nations Watch; United Schools International; United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation; VAAGDHARA; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik; Villages Unis (United Villages); VIVAT International; Women's Human Rights International Association; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (also on behalf of Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)); Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL); FIAN International e.V.; Friends of the Earth International; International Federation for Human Rights Leagues; International Service for Human Rights and International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific); World Environment and Resources Council (WERC); World Evangelical Alliance; World Jewish Congress; World Muslim Congress.

198. At the 27th meeting, on 9 March 2017, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Brazil, China, India and Pakistan.

## **F. Consideration of and action on draft proposals**

### **The right to privacy in the digital age**

199. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2018, the representative of Germany introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.10, sponsored by Austria, Brazil, Germany, Liechtenstein and Mexico, and co-sponsored by Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Maldives, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Ukraine, the United States of America, Uruguay and the State of Palestine. Subsequently, the United States of America withdrew co-sponsorship of the draft resolution. Subsequently, Argentina, Armenia, Benin, Botswana, the Congo, Costa Rica, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mali, Norway, Panama, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste and Togo joined the sponsors.

200. At the same meeting, the representative of Slovakia, on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council, made a general comment in relation to the draft resolution.

201. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

202. At the same meeting, the draft resolution, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/2).

### **Integrity of the judicial system**

203. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2018, the representative of the Russian Federation introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.11/Rev.1, sponsored by the Russian Federation, and co-sponsored by Belarus, China, Cuba, Ethiopia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Bahrain, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Serbia, Sierra Leone and Tajikistan joined the sponsors.

204. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a general comment in relation to the draft resolution.

205. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

206. At the same meeting, the representative of Slovakia, on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council, made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution.

207. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

#### *In favour:*

Angola, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, South Africa, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

#### *Against:*

Georgia, United States of America

#### *Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Germany, Hungary, Iraq, Japan, Mongolia, Nigeria, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Togo, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

208. The draft resolution was adopted by 23 votes to 2, with 22 abstentions (resolution 37/3).

### **Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and the right to non-discrimination in this context**

209. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2018, the representative of Germany introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.12, sponsored by Brazil, Finland, Germany and Namibia and co-sponsored by Albania, Andorra, Angola, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State

of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, France, Georgia, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine and Uruguay. Subsequently, Algeria, Belarus, Benin, the Congo, Costa Rica, Czechia, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Panama, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Slovenia and Switzerland joined the sponsors.

210. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

211. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution.

212. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/4).

#### **Mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism**

213. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2018, the representative of Togo, on behalf of States members of the Group of African States, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.13, sponsored by Togo, on behalf of States members of the Group of African States, and co-sponsored by Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Czechia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Fiji, Hungary, Japan, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, Norway, Panama and Uruguay joined the sponsors.

214. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

215. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution.

216. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/5).

#### **The role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights**

217. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2018, the representative of Poland introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.15, sponsored by Australia, Chile, Poland, the Republic of Korea and South Africa and co-sponsored by Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay. Subsequently, Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Fiji, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Norway, Panama, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Togo (on behalf of States Members of the Group of African States) and the United Arab Emirates joined the sponsors.

218. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

219. At the same meeting, the draft resolution, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/6).

**Promoting human rights and Sustainable Development Goals through transparent, accountable and efficient public services delivery**

220. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2018, the representatives of Azerbaijan and Kenya introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.16, sponsored by Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kenya, Thailand and Turkey and co-sponsored by Afghanistan, Chile, Ecuador, Maldives, Nepal, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Togo, on behalf of States members of the Group of African States, Turkey and Uruguay. Subsequently, Australia, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), the Dominican Republic, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Panama, Qatar, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uzbekistan joined the sponsors.

221. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution.

222. At the same meeting, the draft resolution, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/7).

**Human rights and the environment**

223. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2018, the representatives of Costa Rica and Switzerland introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.19, sponsored by Costa Rica, Maldives, Morocco, Slovenia and Switzerland and co-sponsored by Andorra, Angola, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, the Netherlands, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, Uruguay and the State of Palestine. Subsequently, Algeria, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, the Congo, Czechia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Gabon, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Madagascar, Nepal, the Niger, Norway, Panama, the Republic of Korea, San Marino, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sweden and Tunisia joined the sponsors.

224. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

225. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution.

226. At the same meeting, the draft resolution, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/8).

**Freedom of religion or belief**

227. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2018, the representative of Bulgaria, on behalf of States members of the European Union, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.20, sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and co-sponsored by Albania, Andorra, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Chile, Georgia, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey,

Ukraine, Uruguay and the United States of America. Subsequently, Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and Thailand joined the sponsors.

228. At the same meeting, the draft resolution, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/9).

### **The right to food**

229. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2018, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.21, sponsored by Cuba and co-sponsored by Algeria, Angola, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Egypt, Eritrea, Haiti, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and the State of Palestine. Subsequently, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guyana, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, on behalf of States members of the Group of Arab States, Malaysia, Maldives, Monaco, Nepal, the Niger, the Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand and Viet Nam joined the sponsors.

230. At the same meeting, the representative of Switzerland made a general comment in relation to the draft resolution.

231. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution.

232. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

#### *In favour:*

Afghanistan, Angola, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iraq, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

#### *Against:*

United States of America

233. The draft resolution was adopted by 46 votes to 1, with no abstentions (resolution 37/10).

### **The effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights**

234. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2018, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.22, sponsored by Cuba and co-sponsored by Algeria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Egypt, Eritrea, the Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and the State of Palestine. Subsequently, Angola, Belarus, Botswana, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Greece, Indonesia, Jordan, on behalf of States members of the Group of Arab States, the Niger, the Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, Uruguay and Viet Nam joined the sponsors.

235. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Brazil and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made statements in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution.

236. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Angola, Burundi, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Against:*

Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Mexico, Panama, Peru

237. The draft resolution was adopted by 27 votes to 16, with 4 abstentions (resolution 37/11).

#### **Mandate of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights**

238. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2018, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.23, sponsored by Cuba and co-sponsored by Algeria, Angola, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, China, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, the Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and the State of Palestine. Subsequently, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Botswana, Canada, Cyprus, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Greece, Guatemala, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, on behalf of States members of the Group of Arab States, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Panama, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand and Viet Nam joined the sponsors.

239. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba orally revised the draft resolution.

240. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

241. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution as orally revised.

242. At the same meeting, the draft resolution as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/12).

#### **Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights**

243. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2018, the representative of Portugal introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.24, sponsored by Portugal and co-sponsored by Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Haiti, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine. Subsequently, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia,

Benin, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czechia, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Greece, Honduras, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Mongolia, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Uruguay and Viet Nam joined the sponsors.

244. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution. In his statement, the representative of the United States of America disassociated the delegation from the consensus on preambular paragraph 5 of the draft resolution.

245. At the same meeting, the draft resolution, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/13).

#### **Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities**

246. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2018, the representative of Austria introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.25, sponsored by Austria, Mexico and Slovenia and co-sponsored by Armenia, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay. Subsequently, Benin, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Estonia, Greece, Guatemala, Japan, Lithuania, Panama, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Switzerland and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia joined the sponsors.

247. At the same meeting, the draft resolution, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/14).

#### **High-level intersessional discussion celebrating the centenary of Nelson Mandela**

248. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2018, the representative of Togo, on behalf of States members of the Group of African States, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.26, sponsored by Togo, on behalf of States members of the Group of African States, and co-sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay. Subsequently, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Costa Rica, Fiji, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nepal, Norway, Pakistan, Romania, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine and the United States of America joined the sponsors.

249. At the same meeting, the representatives of Belgium, Slovakia, on behalf of States Members of the European Union that are members of the Council, and South Africa made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

250. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

251. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/15).

#### **Right to work**

252. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2018, the representatives of Egypt and Greece introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.28, sponsored by Egypt, Greece, Indonesia, Mexico and Romania and co-sponsored by Afghanistan, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and



Herzegovina, Bulgaria, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Ecuador, France, Georgia, Germany, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Pakistan, Paraguay, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, on behalf of States members of the Group of African States, Yemen and the State of Palestine. Subsequently, Australia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Canada, El Salvador, Fiji, Finland, Guatemala, Italy, Maldives, Panama, Poland, San Marino, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Viet Nam joined the sponsors.

253. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

254. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/16).

### **Cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage**

255. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2018, the representative of Cyprus introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.30, sponsored by Argentina, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Greece, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Mali, Poland, Serbia and Switzerland and co-sponsored by Afghanistan, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Honduras, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Ukraine and the United States of America. Subsequently, Albania, Angola, Austria, Azerbaijan, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Canada, Colombia, the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Netherlands, the Niger, Pakistan, Panama, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, San Marino, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia and the State of Palestine joined the sponsors.

256. At the same meeting, the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

257. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

258. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/17).

### **Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal**

259. At the 54th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representative of Greece introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.31, sponsored by Brazil, China, the Congo, Cyprus, Greece, Japan, Lebanon, Morocco, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation and co-sponsored by Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, France, Germany, Haiti, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, the Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the Sudan, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, the United States of America and the State of Palestine. Subsequently, Argentina, Armenia, Bahrain, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, Gabon, Guatemala, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Panama, Portugal, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined the sponsors.

260. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a general comment in relation to the draft resolution.

261. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

262. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/18).

**The negative impact of corruption on the right to be free from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**

263. At the 54th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representative of Denmark introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.32, sponsored by Denmark and co-sponsored by Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay. Subsequently, the Philippines withdrew co-sponsorship of the draft resolution. Subsequently, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Benin, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Guatemala, Japan, Panama, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, San Marino, Senegal, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Tunisia joined the sponsors.

264. At the same meeting, the representatives of Belgium, Egypt, Slovakia, on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

265. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

266. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/19).

**Rights of the child: protection of the rights of the child in humanitarian situations**

267. At the 54th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representatives of Bulgaria, on behalf of States members of the European Union, and Uruguay, on behalf of States members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.33, sponsored by Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and co-sponsored by Andorra, Angola, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey and Ukraine. Subsequently, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Benin, Botswana, Canada, Egypt, Guatemala, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Norway, San Marino, Senegal, Sierra Leone and the State of Palestine joined the sponsors.

268. At the same meeting, the representative of Bulgaria, on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council, orally revised the draft resolution.

269. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

270. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution as orally revised. In his statement, the representative of the United States of America disassociated the delegation from the consensus on preambular paragraph 11 and operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution as orally revised.

271. At the same meeting, the draft resolution as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/20).

#### **Human rights and unilateral coercive measures**

272. At the 54th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on behalf of States members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.34, sponsored by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on behalf of States members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. Subsequently, Togo, on behalf of States members of the Group of African States, joined the sponsors.

273. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba made a general comment in relation to the draft resolution.

274. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Australia, Brazil, Mexico, Slovakia, on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council, and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution.

275. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Slovakia, on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Angola, Burundi, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Against:*

Australia, Belgium, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Brazil, Mexico

276. The draft resolution was adopted by 28 votes to 15, with 3 abstentions (resolution 37/21).<sup>39</sup>

<sup>39</sup> The delegation of Panama did not cast a vote.

### **Equality and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities and the right of persons with disabilities to access to justice**

277. At the 54th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representative of Mexico (also on behalf of New Zealand) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.35, sponsored by Mexico and New Zealand and co-sponsored by Argentina, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Monaco, Montenegro, Paraguay, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay. Subsequently, Algeria, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechia, Egypt, Greece, Guatemala, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, the Netherlands, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, San Marino, Senegal, Sierra Leone and the United Arab Emirates joined the sponsors.

278. At the same meeting, the representative of Mexico orally revised the draft resolution.

279. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Egypt and Hungary made general comments in relation to the draft resolution as orally revised.

280. At the same meeting, the draft resolution as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/22).

### **Promoting mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of human rights**

281. At the 54th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representative of China introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.36, sponsored by China and co-sponsored by Angola, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, Cambodia, Cuba, Egypt, Eritrea, Maldives, Morocco, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe. Subsequently, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Benin, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Indonesia, Libya, Malaysia, Mozambique, Namibia, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, the Sudan and Yemen joined the sponsors.

282. At the same meeting, the President of the Council announced that the draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.36 had been orally revised.

283. At the same meeting, the representatives of Cuba, Egypt, Pakistan, South Africa, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made general comments in relation to the draft resolution as orally revised.

284. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Australia, Japan, Mexico, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia, on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council, and Switzerland made statements in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution as orally revised.

285. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution as orally revised. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Angola, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Against:*

United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

286. The draft resolution as orally revised was adopted by 28 votes to 1, with 17 abstentions (resolution 37/23).<sup>40</sup>

**Promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

287. At the 54th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representatives of Denmark and Chile introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.37, sponsored by Azerbaijan, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Luxembourg, Portugal, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Thailand and Uruguay and co-sponsored by Albania, Angola, Australia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Lithuania, Madagascar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Paraguay, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, Togo, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Benin, the Congo, Costa Rica, Czechia, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Gabon, Georgia, Greece, Haiti, Indonesia, Japan, Latvia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mongolia, Mozambique, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Romania, Slovenia, South Sudan, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates and Zambia joined the sponsors.

288. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

289. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution.

290. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/24).

**The need for an integrated approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the full realization of human rights, focusing holistically on the means of implementation**

291. At the 54th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representative of South Africa introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.42, sponsored by Algeria, Cuba, Pakistan and South Africa and co-sponsored by Angola, Azerbaijan and Maldives. Subsequently, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Mongolia, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Swaziland, Thailand, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam joined the sponsors.

292. At the same meeting, the representative of South Africa orally revised the draft resolution.

293. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Slovakia, on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council, made a general comment in relation to the draft resolution as orally revised.

294. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution as orally

<sup>40</sup> The delegation of Tunisia did not cast a vote.

revised. In his statement, the representative of the United States of America disassociated the delegation from the consensus on preambular paragraph 9 and operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution as orally revised.

295. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/25).

### **Prevention of genocide**

296. At the 54th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representative of Armenia introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.44, sponsored by Armenia and co-sponsored by Australia, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Malta, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Serbia, Slovenia, Ukraine, the United State of America and Uruguay. Subsequently, the United States of America withdrew co-sponsorship of the draft resolution. Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Mexico, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zambia joined the sponsors.

297. At the same meeting, the President of the Council announced that the draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.44 had been orally revised.

298. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Australia, Belgium, Chile, Cuba, Germany, Panama, Rwanda, Slovakia, on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made general comments in relation to the draft resolution as orally revised.

299. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Cuba, a separate recorded vote was taken on preambular paragraph 22 and operative paragraph 16 of the draft resolution as orally revised. The voting was as follows:

#### *In favour:*

Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

#### *Against:*

Burundi, Cuba, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

#### *Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Angola, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, Nigeria, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia

300. Preambular paragraph 22 and operative paragraph 16 of the draft resolution as orally revised were retained by 24 votes to 8, with 15 abstentions.

301. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

302. At the same meeting, the representatives of Cuba, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements in explanation

of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution as orally revised. In his statement, the representative of Cuba disassociated the delegation from the consensus on preambular paragraph 22 and operative paragraphs 16 and 24 of the draft resolution as orally revised. In their statements, the representatives of Pakistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) disassociated their delegations from the consensus on preambular paragraph 22 and operative paragraph 16 of the draft resolution as orally revised. In his statement, the representative of Kyrgyzstan disassociated the delegation from the consensus on preambular paragraphs 11 and 22 and operative paragraphs 16 and 24 of the draft resolution as orally revised.

303. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/26).

304. At the 56th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representative of Egypt made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote and general comments in relation to all draft proposals adopted under agenda item 3. In his statement, the representative of Egypt disassociated the delegation from the consensus on preambular paragraph 22 and operative paragraph 16 of the draft resolution as orally revised.

### **Terrorism and human rights**

305. At the 54th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representatives of Egypt and Mexico introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.50/Rev.1, sponsored by Egypt and Mexico and co-sponsored by Algeria, Andorra, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Paraguay, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates and Uruguay. Subsequently, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechia, Estonia, France, Georgia, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Jordan, on behalf of States members of the Group of Arab States, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined the sponsors.

306. At the same meeting, the representative of South Africa introduced amendment A/HRC/37/L.63 to draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.50/Rev.1.

307. Amendment A/HRC/37/L.63 was sponsored by South Africa.

308. At the same meeting, the representatives of Egypt, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Slovakia, on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council, made general comments in relation to the draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.50/Rev.1, as well as on the proposed amendment A/HRC/37/L.63.

309. Also at the same meeting, the Council took action on amendment A/HRC/37/L.63 to draft resolution A/HRC/L.50/Rev.1.

310. At the same meeting, the representative of Mexico made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to amendment A/HRC/37/L.63.

311. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Mexico, a recorded vote was taken on amendment A/HRC/37/L.63. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Cuba, Ecuador, Kenya, Pakistan, Qatar, South Africa

*Against:*

Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, Chile, Croatia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Nepal, Panama, Peru, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland,

Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Angola, Brazil, Burundi, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Mongolia, Nigeria, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia

312. Amendment A/HRC/37/L.63 was rejected by 6 votes to 26, with 14 abstentions.<sup>41</sup>

313. At the same meeting, the representatives of South Africa and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution.

314. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/27).

**Contribution to the implementation of the joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem with regard to human rights**

315. At the 56th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representatives of Colombia and Switzerland introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.41, sponsored by Albania, Brazil, Colombia, Greece, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Portugal, Switzerland and Uruguay and co-sponsored by Australia, Cyprus, Ecuador, France, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Spain and Turkey. Subsequently, Angola, Argentina, the Bahamas, Benin, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Finland, Germany, Guyana, Hungary, Italy, Panama, Sierra Leone, Thailand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined the sponsors.

316. At the same meeting, the representative of Switzerland orally revised the draft resolution.

317. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Cuba introduced amendment A/HRC/37/L.58 to draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.41 as orally revised.

318. At the same meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation introduced amendment A/HRC/37/L.59 to draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.41 as orally revised.

319. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Philippines introduced amendment A/HRC/37/L.61 to draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.41 as orally revised.

320. At the same meeting, the representative of Egypt introduced amendment A/HRC/37/L.62 to draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.41 as orally revised.

321. Amendment A/HRC/37/58 was sponsored by Cuba and co-sponsored by Egypt, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Singapore and Viet Nam joined the sponsors. Amendment A/HRC/37/L.59 was sponsored by the Russian Federation and co-sponsored by Cuba, Egypt, Pakistan, the Philippines and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Indonesia and Iran (Islamic Republic of) joined the sponsors. Amendment A/HRC/37/L.61 was sponsored by the Philippines and co-sponsored by Cuba, Egypt, Pakistan, the Russian Federation and South Africa. Subsequently, Cambodia, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Myanmar, Singapore, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam joined the sponsors. Amendment A/HRC/37/L.62 was sponsored by Egypt and co-sponsored by Cuba, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and the United Arab Emirates. Subsequently, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Singapore and Viet Nam joined the sponsors.

---

<sup>41</sup> The delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela did not cast a vote.



322. At the same meeting, the Russian Federation withdrew amendment A/HRC/37/L.59 to draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.41 as orally revised.

323. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Australia made a general comment in relation to the draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.41 as orally revised, as well as on the proposed amendments.

324. At the same meeting, the Council took action on amendment A/HRC/37/L.58 to draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.41 as orally revised.

325. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Mexico made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to amendment A/HRC/37/L.58.

326. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Mexico, a recorded vote was taken on amendment A/HRC/37/L.58. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Burundi, China, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Iraq, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Against:*

Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Mexico, Panama, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Angola, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Japan, Mongolia, Nepal, Peru, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, United States of America

327. Amendment A/HRC/37/L.58 was adopted by 17 votes to 15, with 15 abstentions.

328. At the same meeting, the Council took action on amendment A/HRC/37/L.61 to draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.41 as orally revised and amended.

329. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Mexico and Switzerland made statements in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to amendment A/HRC/37/L.61.

330. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Mexico, a recorded vote was taken on amendment A/HRC/37/L.61. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Burundi, China, Cuba, Egypt, Iraq, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Against:*

Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Panama, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Japan, Mongolia, Nepal, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, United States of America

331. Amendment A/HRC/37/L.61 was rejected by 15 votes to 18, with 14 abstentions.

332. At the same meeting, the Council took action on amendment A/HRC/37/L.62 to draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.41 as orally revised and amended.

333. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Mexico, Panama and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made statements in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to amendment A/HRC/37/L.62.

334. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Mexico, a recorded vote was taken on amendment A/HRC/37/L.62. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Burundi, China, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Iraq, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Against:*

Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Ecuador, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Japan, Mongolia, Nepal, Qatar, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, United States of America

335. Amendment A/HRC/37/L.62 was rejected by 15 votes to 20, with 12 abstentions.

336. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

337. At the same meeting, the representatives of Egypt (also on behalf of Cuba, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates), Mexico, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.41 as orally revised and amended.

338. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Egypt, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution as orally revised and amended. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Angola, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Ecuador, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, Panama, Peru, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Against:*

Burundi, China, Cuba, Egypt, Iraq, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Qatar, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia

339. The draft resolution as orally revised and amended was adopted by 26 votes to 10, with 11 abstentions (resolution 37/42).

340. At the same meeting, the representatives of Australia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote after the vote and general comments in relation to all draft proposals adopted under agenda item 3. In his statement, the representative of Australia disassociated the delegation from the new preambular paragraph 5 of the draft resolution as orally revised and amended by amendment A/HRC/37/L.62.

## IV. Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

### A. Panels

#### High-level panel discussion on violations of the human rights of children in the Syrian Arab Republic

341. At the 31st meeting, on 13 March 2018, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 36/20, the Council held a high-level panel discussion on violations of the human rights of children in the Syrian Arab Republic.

342. The United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis, Panos Moutziz, made opening statements for the panel. The foreign Correspondent in Geneva for Svenska Dagbladet, Gunilla von Hall, moderated the discussion for the panel.

343. At the same meeting, the following panellists made statements: the founding Member of the Hurras Network (Syrian Child Protection Network), Alaa Zaza; the Director of Children of One World, Haysam Osman; the founding Member of Urnammu for Justice and Human Rights, Ibrahim Alkaseh. The Council divided the panel discussion into two slots.

344. During the ensuing panel discussion for the first slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Belgium, Croatia (also on behalf of Austria and Slovenia), Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (also on behalf of France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United States of America);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Estonia, France, Iceland (also on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden), Ireland, Israel;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches; International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; United Nations Watch.

345. At the end of the first slot, at the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made comments.

346. During the discussion for the second slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Bahrain, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Maldives;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Conseil International pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux Droits de l'Homme; Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru"; International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM).

347. At the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

## **B. Enhanced interactive dialogue on the human rights situation in Eritrea**

348. At its 30th meeting, on 12 March 2018, pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolution 35/35, the Council held an enhanced interactive dialogue on the human rights situation in Eritrea.

349. At the same meeting, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights made an opening statement for the enhanced interactive dialogue, on behalf of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

350. Also at the same meeting, the following made their statements: the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, Sheila B. Keetharuth; the representative of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Remy Nogy Lumbu; the representative of Information Forum for Eritrea, Veronica Almedom; the public health specialist, Pamela DeLargy.

351. During the ensuing discussion at the same meeting, on the same day, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, China, Cuba, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Djibouti, France, Greece, Ireland, Norway, Sudan;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International; Article 19 - International Centre Against Censorship, The; Center for Global Nonkilling; Christian Solidarity Worldwide; East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project; Human Rights Watch; International Fellowship of Reconciliation; United Nations Watch.

352. At the same meeting, on the same day, the presenters answered questions and made concluding remarks.

## **C. Interactive dialogue with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic**

353. At the 32nd meeting, on 13 March 2018, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 34/26, the Chairperson of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, presented the report of the Commission (A/HRC/37/72).

354. At the same meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement as the State concerned.

355. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, also at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the Chairperson questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, China, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Germany, Hungary, Iraq, Japan, Mexico, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Bahrain, Belarus, Canada, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein,

Lithuania, Maldives, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International; Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies; Conseil International pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux Droits de l'Homme; Human Rights Watch; Roads of Success; United Nations Watch; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; World Council of Arameans (Syriacs).

356. At the same meeting, the representative of Syrian Arab Republic made final remarks as the State concerned.

357. Also at the same meeting, the Chairperson and members of the Commission answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

#### **D. Interactive dialogue with the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan**

358. At the 33rd meeting, on 13 March 2018, Chairperson of the Commission for Human Rights in South Sudan, Yasmin Sooka, presented the Commission's report (A/HRC/37/71).

359. At the same meeting, the representative of South Sudan made a statement as the State concerned.

360. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked Chairperson of the Commission questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, China, Germany, Kenya, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Albania, Algeria, Botswana, Denmark, France, Ireland, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sudan;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International; Article 19 - International Centre Against Censorship, The; East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project; Human Rights Watch; International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme.

361. At the same meeting, the representative of South Sudan made final remarks as the State concerned.

362. At the same meeting, the Chairperson of the Commission and the member of the Commission, Andrew Clapham, answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

#### **E. Interactive dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi**

363. At the 33rd meeting, on 13 March 2018, the members of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi, Doudou Diène, Françoise Hampson and Lucy Asuagbor, gave an oral briefing, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 36/19.

364. At the same meeting, the representative of Burundi made a statement as the State concerned.

365. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, also at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the members of the Commission of Inquiry questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, Belgium, China, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Czechia, Denmark, France, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Lithuania, Myanmar, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International; CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation; East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project; Human Rights Watch; International Federation of ACAT (Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture) (also on behalf of Track Impunity Always - TRIAL / Association suisse contre l'impunité and World Organisation Against Torture); International Federation for Human Rights Leagues; International Service for Human Rights.

366. At the same meeting, the members of the Commission of Inquiry answered questions and made concluding remarks.

## **F. Oral update by the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar**

367. At the 29th meeting, on 12 March 2018, the Human Rights Council heard an oral update of the Chairperson of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar, Marzuki Darusman, and members of the Fact-Finding Mission, Radhika Coomaraswamy and Christopher Dominic Sidoti.

368. At the same meeting, the representative of Myanmar made a statement as the State concerned.

369. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 29th to 30th meetings, on 12 March 2018, the following made statements and asked the Chairperson of the Fact-Finding Mission questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, China, Croatia, Germany, Iraq, Japan, Mexico, Philippines (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Qatar, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Canada, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Viet Nam;

(c) Observers for intergovernmental organizations: European Union, Organization of Islamic Cooperation;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International; Article 19 - International Centre Against Censorship, The; Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development; Asian Legal Resource Centre; Child Foundation; Christian Solidarity Worldwide; Human Rights Now; Human Rights Watch; International Commission of Jurists; International Educational Development, Inc.; International Federation for Human Rights Leagues; International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial

Discrimination; Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development; Plan International, Inc.; Presse Embleme Campagne.

370. At the 30th meeting, on 12 March 2018, the representative of Myanmar made final remarks as the State concerned.

371. At the same meeting, the Chairperson and members of the Fact-Finding Mission answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

## **G. Interactive dialogue with special procedures mandate holders**

### **Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

372. At the 28th meeting, on 12 March 2018, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Tomás Ojea Quintana, presented his report (A/HRC/37/69).

373. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, China, Cuba, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Belarus, Czechia, Estonia, France, Greece, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Liechtenstein, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International; Christian Solidarity Worldwide; Human Rights Watch; Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru"; International Bar Association; People for Successful Korean Reunification; United Nations Watch.

374. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

### **Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar**

375. At the 29th meeting, on 12 March 2018, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Yanghee Lee, presented her report (A/HRC/37/70).

376. At the same meeting, the representative of Myanmar made a statement as the State concerned.

377. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 29th to 30th meetings, on 12 March 2018, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, China, Croatia, Germany, Iraq, Japan, Mexico, Philippines (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Qatar, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Canada, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France,



Greece, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Viet Nam;

(c) Observers for intergovernmental organizations: European Union, Organization of Islamic Cooperation;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International; Article 19 - International Centre Against Censorship, The; Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development; Asian Legal Resource Centre; Child Foundation; Christian Solidarity Worldwide; Human Rights Now; Human Rights Watch; International Commission of Jurists; International Educational Development, Inc.; International Federation for Human Rights Leagues; International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development; Plan International, Inc.; Presse Embleme Campagne.

378. At the 30th meeting, on 12 March 2018, the representative of Myanmar made final remarks as the State concerned.

379. Also at the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

## **H. Discussion of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran**

380. At the 28th meeting, on 12 March 2018, pursuant to the decision of the Council made at its opening meeting, on 26 February 2018, in accordance with Resolution 34/23, the Council held a discussion of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the late Asma Jahangir (A/HRC/37/68). The report was presented by the Chair of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures.

381. At the same meeting, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement as the State concerned.

382. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 28th meeting, on 12 March 2018, and at the 29th meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Chair of the Coordination Committee questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, Belgium, China, Cuba, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Belarus, Canada, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, France, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International; Baha'i International Community; Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, The; Ensemble contre la Peine de Mort (also on behalf of International Federation of Journalists); Family Health Association of Iran; Minority Rights Group; Prevention Association of Social Harms (PASH); Women's Human Rights International Association (also on behalf of France Libertes: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand).

383. At the 29th meeting, on the same day, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made final remarks as the State concerned.

384. At the 30th meeting, on the same day, statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of Israel.

## I. General debate on agenda item 4

385. At the 34th meeting, on 14 March 2018, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights presented oral updates on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the situation of human rights in Eritrea.

386. At the same meeting, the representative of Eritrea made a statement as the State concerned.

387. At its 34th to 35th meetings, on 14 March 2018, the Council held a general debate on agenda item 4, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria<sup>42</sup> (also on behalf of Albania, the European Union, Liechtenstein and Montenegro), China, Cuba, Ecuador, Georgia, Germany, Japan, Pakistan (also on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Peru, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, United States of America (also on behalf of Albania, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Djibouti, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, the Republic of Moldova, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Yemen), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (also on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Cambodia, Canada, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Eritrea, Finland, France, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: ABC Tamil Oli; Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs; Africa Culture Internationale; African Development Association; African Regional Agricultural Credit Association; Agence Internationale pour le Développement; Agir Ensemble pour les Droits de l'Homme; Alliance Creative Community Project; Alsalam Foundation; American Association of Jurists; Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc; Amnesty International; Article 19 - International Centre Against Censorship, The; Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development; Asian Legal Resource Centre; Association Bharathi Centre Culturel Franco-Tamoul; Association Culturelle des Tamouls en France; Association d'Entraide Médicale Guinée; Association des étudiants tamouls de France; Association Dunenyó; Association for the Protection of Women and Children's Rights (APWCR); Association of World Citizens; Association pour les Victimes Du Monde; Association pour l'Intégration et le Développement Durable au Burundi; Association Solidarité Internationale pour l'Afrique (SIA); Baha'i International Community; British Humanist Association; Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies; Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace; Canners International Permanent Committee; Center for Environmental and Management Studies; Center for Organisation Research and Education; Centre Europe - Tiers Monde - Europe-Third World Centre (also on behalf of FIAN International e.V.; Friends of the Earth International; International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL); International Trade Union Confederation and Institute for Policy Studies); Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy; Chant du Guépard dans le Désert; Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, The; Child Foundation; Christian Solidarity Worldwide; CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation; Commission africaine des promoteurs de la santé et des droits de

<sup>42</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

l'homme; Commission to Study the Organization of Peace; Conseil de jeunesse pluriculturelle (COJEP); Conseil International pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux Droits de l'Homme; Conselho Indigenista Missionário CIMI; "Coup de Pousse" Chaîne de l'Espoir Nord-Sud (C.D.P.-C.E.N.S); East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project; European Centre for Law and Justice, The / Centre Europeen pour le droit, les Justice et les droits de l'homme; European Union of Public Relations; Family Health Association of Iran; France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand; Franciscans International (also on behalf of Amnesty International; Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development; International Federation for Human Rights Leagues; International Service for Human Rights and World Organisation Against Torture) Fundación Latinoamericana por los Derechos Humanos y el Desarrollo Social; Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights; Human Rights Council of Australia, Inc.; Human Rights House Foundation; Human Rights Law Centre; Human Rights League of the Horn of Africa; Human Rights Now; Human Rights Watch; Human Security Initiative Organization; Il Cenacolo; Indian Council of Education; Indian Council of South America (CISA); Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru"; Indigenous People of Africa Coordinating Committee; International Association for Democracy in Africa; International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL); International Bar Association; International Buddhist Relief Organisation; International Career Support Association; International Commission of Jurists; International Educational Development, Inc.; International Federation for Human Rights Leagues; International Federation for the Protection of the Rights of Ethnic, Religious, Linguistic & Other Minorities; International Federation of Journalists; International Fellowship of Reconciliation; International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM); International Humanist and Ethical Union; International Institute for Non-aligned Studies; International Lesbian and Gay Association; International Muslim Women's Union; International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; International Service for Human Rights; International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations; International-Lawyers.Org; Iraqi Development Organization; IUS PRIMI VIRI International Association (also on behalf of International-Lawyers.Org); Japanese Workers' Committee for Human Rights; Jossour Forum des Femmes Marocaines; Jssor Youth Organization; Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture; Le Pont; Liberation; L'Observatoire Mauritanien des Droits de l'Homme et de la Démocratie; Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development; Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association; Minority Rights Group; Organisation pour la Communication en Afrique et de Promotion de la Cooperation Economique Internationale - OCAPROCE Internationale; Organization for Defending Victims of Violence; Pan African Union for Science and Technology; Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation; Peace Brigades International Switzerland; People for Successful Corean Reunification; Prahar; Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme; Society for Threatened Peoples; Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development of Environment; Solidarité Suisse-Guinée; Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression; Tamil Uzhagam; Terre Des Hommes Federation Internationale; Tourner la page; Union of Arab Jurists; United Nations Watch; United Schools International; United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation; VAAGDHARA; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik; Villages Unis (United Villages); VIVAT International (also on behalf of Franciscans International); Women's Human Rights International Association; World Barua Organization (WBO); World Environment and Resources Council (WERC); World Evangelical Alliance; World Jewish Congress; World Muslim Congress; World Organisation Against Torture.

388. At the 35th meeting, on 14 March 2018, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Bahrain, Belarus, Brazil, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Thailand, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

## J. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

### **Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

389. At the 55th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representatives of Bulgaria, on behalf of States members of the European Union, and Japan introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.29, sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and co-sponsored by Albania, Andorra, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Chile, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United States of America. Subsequently, Argentina, Benin, Botswana, Costa Rica, Honduras, Maldives, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea and San Marino joined the sponsors.

390. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

391. At the same meeting, the representatives of China, Cuba and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution. In their statements, the representatives of China, Cuba and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) disassociated their delegations from the consensus on the draft resolution.

392. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/28).

393. At the same meeting, the representative of Kyrgyzstan made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote and general comments in relation to all draft proposals adopted under agenda item 4. In his statement, the representative of Kyrgyzstan disassociated the delegation from the consensus on the operative paragraph 9 of the resolution.

### **The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic**

394. At the 55th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Qatar introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.38, sponsored by France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America and co-sponsored by Andorra, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine. Subsequently, Austria, Costa Rica, Georgia, Japan, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Slovenia and Switzerland joined the sponsors.

395. At the same meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation introduced amendment A/HRC/37/L.60 to draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.38.

396. Amendment A/HRC/37/L.60 was sponsored by the Russian Federation.

397. At the same meeting, the representatives of Australia, Belgium, Iraq, Slovakia, on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council, Switzerland, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made general comments in relation to the draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.38, as well as on the proposed amendment A/HRC/37/L.60.

398. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement as the State concerned.

399. At the same meeting, the Council took action on amendment A/HRC/37/L.60 to draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.38.

400. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Australia made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to amendment A/HRC/37/L.60.

401. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a recorded vote was taken on amendment A/HRC/37/L.60. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Burundi, China, Cuba, Egypt, Iraq, Philippines, Tunisia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Against:*

Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Togo, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa,

402. Amendment A/HRC/37/L.60 was rejected by 8 votes to 25, with 14 abstentions.

403. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

404. At the same meeting, the representatives of Brazil, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Mexico (also on behalf of Brazil, Panama and Peru), Pakistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.38.

405. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Cuba, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Togo, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Against:*

Burundi, China, Cuba, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Abstaining:*

Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia

406. The draft resolution was adopted by 27 votes to 4, with 16 abstentions (resolution 37/29).

#### **Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran**

407. At the 55th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representative of Sweden introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.39, sponsored by the Republic of Moldova, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the United States of America, and co-sponsored by Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Australia withdrew co-sponsorship of the draft resolution. Subsequently, Australia, Costa Rica and Portugal joined the sponsors.

408. At the same meeting, the representatives of Pakistan and Slovakia, on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council, made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

409. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement as the State concerned.

410. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

411. At the same meeting, the representatives of Australia, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution.

412. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Pakistan, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Australia, Belgium, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Against:*

Burundi, China, Cuba, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Angola, Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, Kenya, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia

413. The draft resolution was adopted by 21 votes to 7, with 19 abstentions (resolution 37/30).

#### **Situation of human rights in South Sudan**

414. At the 55th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representative of the United States of America introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.40, sponsored by Albania, Paraguay, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America and co-sponsored by Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Liechtenstein,

Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland. Subsequently, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, New Zealand, Portugal, Slovakia, Togo, on behalf of States members of the Group of African States, and Ukraine joined the sponsors.

415. Also at the same meeting, the representative of South Sudan made a statement as the State concerned.

416. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

417. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/31).

418. At the same meeting, the representative of Egypt made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote and general comments in relation to all draft proposals adopted under agenda item 4. In his statement, the representative of Egypt disassociated the delegation from the consensus on the operative paragraphs 15 and 16bis of the resolution.

### **Situation of human rights in Myanmar**

419. At the 55th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representative of Bulgaria, on behalf of States members of the European Union, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.43, sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and co-sponsored by Albania, Andorra, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Maldives, Monaco, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine and the United States of America. Subsequently, Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, on behalf of States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Republic of Korea, San Marino and Switzerland joined the sponsors.

420. At the same meeting, the representative of Australia made a general comment in relation to the draft resolution.

421. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Myanmar made a statement as the State concerned.

422. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

423. At the same meeting, the representatives of China, Japan and the Philippines made statements in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution.

424. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of China, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

#### *In favour:*

Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Egypt, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Against:*

Burundi, China, Cuba, Philippines, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Abstaining:*

Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Japan, Kenya, Mongolia, Nepal, Senegal, South Africa

425. The draft resolution was adopted by 32 votes to 5, with 10 abstentions (resolution 37/32).

426. At the same meeting, the representatives of Egypt, Kyrgyzstan and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote after the vote and general comments in relation to all draft proposals adopted under agenda item 4.



## V. Human rights bodies and mechanisms

### A. Forum on minority issues

427. At the 36th meeting, on 14 March 2018, the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Fernand de Varennes, presented the recommendations adopted by the Forum on Minority Issues at its tenth session, convened on 30 November and 1 December 2017 on “Minority youth: towards inclusive and diverse societies” (A/HRC/37/73).

### B. Social Forum

428. At the 36th meeting, on 14 March 2018, the Chairpersons of the 2017 Social Forum, Permanent Representative of Brazil, Maria Nazareth Farani Azevêdo, and Permanent Representative of Belarus, Yury Ambrazevich, introduced the report containing conclusions and recommendations of the Social Forum, held from 2 to 4 October 2017, which focused on “promotion and protection of human rights in the context of the HIV epidemic and other communicable diseases and epidemics” (A/HRC/37/74).

### C. Special Procedures

429. At the 36th meeting, on 14 March 2018, the Chairperson of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures, Catalina Devandas Aguilar, presented the report on the twenty-fourth annual meeting of special rapporteurs and representatives, independent experts and working groups of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, including updated information on the special procedures, which was held in Geneva from 26 to 30 June 2017 (A/HRC/37/37 and Add.1) and the communications report of the special procedures (A/HRC/37/80).

### D. General debate on agenda item 5

430. At its 36th meeting, on 14 March 2018, and at its 37th and 39th meetings, on 15 March 2017, the Council held a general debate on agenda item 5, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Australia (also on behalf of Indonesia, Mexico, the Republic of Korea and Turkey), Brazil, Bulgaria<sup>43</sup> (on behalf of the European Union), China, Cuba, Indonesia<sup>44</sup> (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Mexico, Pakistan (also on behalf of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation), Portugal<sup>45</sup> (also on behalf of Angola, Australia, the Bahamas, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Georgia, Haiti, Italy, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, the Republic of Korea, Seychelles, Slovenia, Sweden, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia and Uruguay), Qatar, South Africa, Ukraine, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Austria, Azerbaijan, Ireland, Maldives, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf;

<sup>43</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>44</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>45</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action of Human Movement (AHM); Africa Culture Internationale; Alliance Creative Community Project; Alsalam Foundation; Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc; Amnesty International (also on behalf of International Service for Human Rights); Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development; Association Bharathi Centre Culturel Franco-Tamoul; Association Culturelle des Tamouls en France; Association d'Entraide Médicale Guinée; Association des étudiants tamouls de France; Association for the Protection of Women and Children's Rights (APWCR); Association of World Citizens; Association pour l'Intégration et le Développement Durable au Burundi; Association Solidarité Internationale pour l'Afrique (SIA); Association Thendral; Canners International Permanent Committee; Center for Environmental and Management Studies; Center for Organisation Research and Education; Commission africaine des promoteurs de la santé et des droits de l'homme; Commission to Study the Organization of Peace; Conseil International pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux Droits de l'Homme; Coordination des associations et des particuliers pour la liberté de conscience; Drepavie; European Union of Public Relations; Indian Council of South America (CISA); Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru"; Indigenous People of Africa Coordinating Committee; International Association for Democracy in Africa; International Buddhist Relief Organisation; International Federation of Journalists; International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM); International Muslim Women's Union; International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; International Service for Human Rights; International-Lawyers.Org; Iraqi Development Organization; Japanese Workers' Committee for Human Rights; Jssor Youth Organization; Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture; Le Pont; Liberation; L'Observatoire Mauritanien des Droits de l'Homme et de la Démocratie; Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association; Nouveaux droits de l'homme (NDH); Organization for Defending Victims of Violence; Pan African Union for Science and Technology; Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation; Prahar; Réseau International des Droits Humains (RIDH) (also on behalf of Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, Asociación Civil; Dominicans for Justice and Peace - Order of Preachers and Peace Brigades International Switzerland); Servas International; Solidarité Suisse-Guinée; United Schools International; VAAGDHARA; World Barua Organization (WBO); World Environment and Resources Council (WERC); World Muslim Congress.

431. At the 39th meeting, on 15 March 2018, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of China and the Philippines.

## VI. Universal periodic review

432. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251, Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, Human Rights Council decision 17/119 and President's statements PRST/8/1 and PRST/9/2 on modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process, the Council considered the outcome of the reviews conducted during the twenty-eighth session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review held from 6 to 17 November 2017.

433. In accordance with resolution 5/1, the President outlined that all recommendations must be part of the final document of the universal periodic review and accordingly, the State under Review should clearly communicate its position on all recommendations either by indicating that it "supports" or "notes" the concerned recommendations.

### A. Consideration of the universal periodic review outcomes

434. In accordance with paragraph 4.3 of President's statement 8/1, the following section contains a summary of the views expressed on the outcome by States under review, Member and Observer States of the Council, as well as general comments made by other relevant stakeholders before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary.

#### Czechia

435. The review of Czechia was held on 6 November 2017 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Czechia in accordance with the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/CZE/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/CZE/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/CZE/3).

436. At its 38th meeting, on 15 March 2018, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Czechia (see section C below).

437. The outcome of the review of Czechia comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/37/4), the views of Czechia concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (*see also A/HRC/37/5Add.1*).

#### 1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome

438. The head of the delegation of Czechia, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Czechia to the United Nations in Geneva, Jan Kára, expressed gratitude to all those states who presented recommendations and comments, and felt encouraged by the interest taken by fellow states from all regions of the world in Czechia's human rights efforts. In its statement, Czechia indicated that it takes the universal periodic review process very seriously, and all recommendations and comments had been closely examined by the relevant ministries. Furthermore, the Office of the Government and Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted an inter-ministerial roundtable with civil society representatives examining the recommendations and discussing possible future steps for their implementation.

439. Czechia announced that it accepted 178 out of 201 recommendations received. Among the accepted recommendations are those pertaining to issues mentioned by the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Czechia has accepted all recommendations aimed at the eradication of discrimination against Roma and has committed to work hard in order to address this issue, in line with the Roma Integration Strategy 2015-2020. The amendment to the Schools Act in force from 2016 provides for inclusive education of all pupils and aims at integrating all children, including Roma children with social disadvantages, into the mainstream education system.

440. Czechia stated that forced sterilizations are a matter of the past, and that the current procedures are done in compliance with the patient's free and informed consent to medical treatment and it contains multiple safeguards that make enforced, non-consensual sterilizations impossible. Victims of enforced sterilizations can seek redress and compensation through a court action. Czechia also clarifies that a surgical castration of a sex offender is legally possible only if other treatment options have failed or cannot be applied and is subject to a free and informed written consent of the patient. Surgical castrations of prisoners and detainees are prohibited in Czechia. A detailed reasoning for Czechia's positions concerning recommendations, in particular the noted recommendations is set out in the addendum to the universal periodic review report.

441. During the three cycles of the universal periodic review, Czechia accepted 365 out of the total of 399 recommendations. Czechia is well aware that the universal periodic review is a continuous process whose most important part unfolds outside of the Human Rights Council. Czechia is committed to go beyond words and strive for the effective implementation of the 178 recommendations accepted in the last cycle, and those recommendations from past cycles that have only been partially implemented. Czechia invited both States and non-State actors to follow closely its implementation efforts, and has committed to brief the Council in March 2019 on the early implementation of several accepted recommendations, and will submit a mid-term implementation report in 2020. Czechia also highlighted the voluntary human rights pledges made in connection with their candidature to the Human Rights Council for the term 2019-2021.

## **2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

442. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Czechia, 10 delegations made statements.

443. Sierra Leone noted Czechia's statement that under its national criminal legislation, it was a crime to incite hate against a group of persons. It looked forward to hearing about progress with respect to the Government's newly established campaign against hate violence. It expressed its disappointment that Czechia did not intend to end the obligation for detainees who were in the territory illegally to pay the costs of their detention. It also noted that the possibility of detaining and deporting minors was not completely excluded. It encouraged Czechia to ensure that its strict detention and return policy always fully complied with international humanitarian laws, including the principles of non-refoulement.

444. Afghanistan expressed appreciation for the acceptance of its recommendation to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Afghanistan wished Czechia success in the implementation of accepted recommendations. Bahrain welcomed the positive approach taken by Czechia through its announcement to launch a new campaign against hate violence and to step up efforts to thoroughly investigate and prosecute racist and hate crimes. It indicated that implementation of the current crime prevention strategy was key, as it demonstrated a proactive approach in addressing problems. It urged Czechia to look for effective strategies and solutions to streamline work with the ombudsman and other bodies to ensure the most efficient protection for victims of discrimination.

445. Egypt recalled that it had made five recommendations concerning, among others, revising the Criminal Code so that it includes all crimes of incitement to violence, discrimination and racist insults; addressing the large wage gap between men and women; providing the necessary protection to asylum seekers and guaranteeing their access to legal aid and facilitating family reunification; and ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Egypt expressed the hope that Czechia would view its recommendations positively.

446. Estonia welcomed the positive approach taken by Czechia to accept most of the 201 recommendations received during its review. It commended the Government's commitment to continuing strengthening gender equality and the empowerment of women and the rights of persons with disabilities, including by accepting recommendations to ratify relevant international instruments. Estonia regretted that Czechia did not accept recommendations to prohibit all forms of corporal punishment of children in all settings but noted positively that it had accepted recommendations to further consider this topic.

447. Honduras expressed satisfaction at the acceptance by Czechia of its recommendation related to adopting comprehensive legislation for the protection of persons in vulnerable situations such as children, women, refugees and the Roma population. It expressed the hope that Czechia would reconsider its position regarding the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

448. The Islamic Republic of Iran noted that it had presented five recommendations to Czechia and that one of these had been accepted. It expressed the hope that this recommendation, relating to the revision of the Criminal Code to include offences of incitement to violence and discrimination, public insults of a racist nature and public expressions with a racist aim, would be fully implemented. It encouraged Czechia to make further efforts in the areas of: discrimination, intolerance and violence against migrants, the Roma community and Muslims, situation at migrant detention and reception centres, and insufficient access to the social housing system.

449. The Philippines congratulated Czechia for supporting a large number of recommendations received during the interactive dialogue, including the four it had presented. It noted the ongoing discussion on the possible accreditation of its Public Defender of Rights (Ombudsperson) to be the country's national human right institution. It expressed the hope that this process would be facilitated by the Government to ensure full compliance with the Paris Principles. It supported the adoption of the Working Group report.

450. The Russian Federation welcomed the acceptance by Czechia of its recommendations. It looked forward to Government action to address its concerns and to ensure that longstanding problems are addressed such as the rights of minorities, discrimination against persons with disabilities and prison conditions. It indicated that particular attention should be paid to conditions in temporary refugee camps.

451. Albania welcomed the ratification by Czechia of almost all international human rights treaties as well as its commitment to ratify the optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Albania expressed satisfaction at the acceptance by Czechia of the recommendations it had made relating to combating racial, Islamophobic and xenophobic stereotypes and adopting a law on the rights of patients and organizing training of personnel involved in the supervision of reproductive health services in order to preserve the fundamental rights of women and girls.

### **3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders**

452. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Czechia, 1 other stakeholder made a statement.

453. Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience noted that a religious minority is undergoing trial in unacceptable conditions. It further stated that evidence were gathered by person that has an interest against religious minority. It remained concerned that Czechia refused to listen to request that this minority be treated fairly as any other religious group in the country.

#### **4. Concluding remarks of the State under review**

454. The President stated that based on the information provided out of 201 recommendations received, 178 enjoy the support of Czechia, and 23 were noted.

455. In its concluding remarks, Czechia reiterated its commitment to the universal periodic review process and its gratitude to Member States and other stakeholders which have contributed to the third cycle of its review.

#### **Argentina**

456. The review of Argentina was held on 6 November 2017 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Argentina in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/ARG/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/ARG/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/ARG/3).

457. At its 37th meeting, on 15 March 2017, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Argentina (see section C below).

458. The outcome of the review of Argentina comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/37/5), the views of Argentina concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (*see also A/HRC/37/5/Add.1*).

#### **1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome**

459. The head of the delegation, the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations Office at Geneva, Hector Marcelo Cima, expressed its satisfaction for the opportunity to participate in an open and constructive dialogue with member and observer States of the Human Rights Council regarding the human rights situation in Argentina.

460. The delegation stated that human rights were a fundamental part of all Argentine policies and that the universal periodic review had proven to be a valuable tool to strengthen national protection systems. It highlighted that Argentina's submission of mid-term reports during the two previous universal periodic review cycles demonstrated its commitment to implement the recommendations received and hoped that such practice would continue during this universal periodic review cycle.

461. The delegation reported that the 188 recommendations received by Argentina during the current cycle had been analysed in detail by the competent authorities and informed that 175 of them had been accepted and 13 had been noted. It mentioned that information about Argentina's position on the recommendations received was included in the Addendum and

indicated that Argentina had also submitted three annexes: one by the National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism on the national policies in the area of discrimination; a second one focusing on women and children's rights; and a third one by the Executive Secretary of the Federal Council of Human Rights containing information on the progresses made in a number of jurisdictions of the country.

462. With regard to the voluntary commitments made by Argentina during the second cycle of the universal periodic review, the delegation stressed that Argentina, as a federal country, had continued reinforcing the National System for Periodic Reporting (SIPEN); supported the strengthening of the sub-regional, regional and international human rights protection mechanisms; promoted the application of the United Nations minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners in both the federal and provincial penitentiary systems; and undertook reforms aimed at guaranteeing the full exercise of the right of access to information. For the third cycle, Argentina had assumed voluntary commitments in several areas, including on the strengthening of national and provincial human rights institutions; the continuation of the State policy on achieving truth, justice and memory; the adoption of development policies with a human rights focus; the achievement of better standards of transparency, access to information, and production of public data and statistics; the prevention of and fight against institutional violence and the training of the security forces and the penitentiary system.

463. The delegation informed that, since the adoption of the Working Group report of Argentina in November 2017, there had been some progresses in the implementation of the voluntary commitments assumed. Argentina had launched a National Plan on Human Rights for the period 2017-2020, which defined the Government priorities in the field of human rights in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals and the recommendations from the universal periodic review, treaty bodies and special procedures mandate holders. Given the federal nature of the Argentine State, the Government planned to sign agreements with all provinces in order to fulfil the objectives of the plan throughout the national territory.

464. Argentina also advanced in the implementation of the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture, by completing the appointment of its members and establishing Local Mechanisms for the Prevention of Torture in eight provinces. Finally, the delegation emphasized that the President of the Republic had promoted that a wide and open debate be held in the Argentine Parliament on the decriminalization of abortion and the universalization of sexual education.

465. To conclude, the delegation thanked all the States that had taken the floor during the universal periodic review of Argentina and provided recommendations as well as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the countries of the troika for their work.

## **2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

466. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Argentina, 13 delegations made statements.

467. Brazil commended Argentina for its commitment to an open and constructive dialogue on the situation of human rights in the country. It welcomed the launch of the National Human Rights Plan and encouraged Argentina to implement the universal periodic review recommendations together with the plan. It also welcomed the establishment of the National Registry on Femicides and the reduction in the maternal mortality rate and encouraged Argentina to develop a protocol for action aimed at ensuring the protection of the human rights of LGBTI persons in detention.

468. Chile welcomed the acceptance by Argentina of the majority of the recommendations it received, including the three recommendations formulated by Chile on harmonising federal, provincial and local legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, cooperating with special procedures mandate holders on cases of enforced

disappearances, and strengthening the National Council on Women. It also welcomed Argentina's commitment to implement the National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Assistance and Eradication of Violence against Women (2017-2019) as well as other policies and laws in this area.

469. China acknowledged Argentina's constructive participation in the universal periodic review and thanked it for accepting China's recommendations. China encouraged Argentina to take more active measures to promote economic and social development, improve people's living standards, enhance the public health system, promote gender equality, and combat violence against women.

470. Egypt thanked Argentina for the information it provided and highly valued the acceptance by Argentina of the majority of the recommendations it received. It urged Argentina to continue and strengthen its cooperation with the relevant treaty bodies.

471. Ghana noted the creation of the national human rights action plan and encouraged Argentina to continue its efforts to implement it. Ghana also welcomed the priority given by Argentina to the promotion and protection of the human rights of indigenous communities and was confident that Argentina would continue its State policy aimed at achieving truth, justice and memory of the human rights violations perpetrated during the military dictatorship.

472. Honduras commended Argentina for its commitment to strengthen its capacities to prevent torture. It regretted that Argentina had not accepted Honduras' recommendations on the establishment of an Ombudsman for the protection of the rights of children and of a comprehensive policy to combat discrimination against women, indigenous peoples and afro-descendants. It hoped that Argentina would re-examine its position in the future.

473. The Islamic Republic of Iran remained concerned over the continuation of the xenophobia, Islamophobia and stigmatizing discourse expressed by officials and politicians. It noted that Argentina accepted the three recommendations formulated by the Islamic Republic of Iran and looked forward for their implementation.

474. Madagascar celebrated Argentina's determination to build a country without xenophobia, discrimination and racism. It welcomed the signing of cooperation agreements with the provinces to promote good practices in the field of human rights at the municipal level and encouraged Argentina to continue consolidating the rule of law and respect for human rights in the country.

475. The Philippines congratulated Argentina for supporting a large number of the recommendations it received during the interactive dialogue, in particular on issues of importance to the Philippines such as women and children. It supported the commitment of Argentina to continue working on the promotion and protection of the human rights of its people.

476. Sierra Leone noted that Argentina supported a large majority of the 188 recommendations received, including Sierra Leone's recommendations on addressing cultural discrimination against Afro-descendants and indigenous peoples, criminalizing xenophobic discourse by public officials and politicians, and combatting human trafficking. In this regard, Sierra Leone welcomed the establishment of a Federal Council for Combatting Trafficking in Persons and the National Rescue Program to provide assistance to victims of trafficking.

477. Albania welcomed the new measures taken by Argentina to implement the National Human Rights Plan, which addressed many of the recommendations made by the international human rights mechanisms, including the universal periodic review. Albania also welcomed that Argentina accepted the majority of the recommendations it received, including the two recommendations from Albania on implementing alternative measures to detention in order to reduce prison overcrowding and on adopting a new antidiscrimination law making explicit reference to sexual orientation and gender identity.



478. Algeria welcomed the steps taken by Argentina to promote and protect the human rights of its population. It also welcomed Argentina's acceptance of most of the recommendations it received, including those made by Algeria on ensuring equal access to all rights by all, in particular by people of African descent and indigenous peoples, and on fighting against the negative effects of economic activities of companies on the environment and biodiversity.

479. Armenia appreciated the positive engagement of Argentina with the Human Rights Council in the universal periodic review process and noted that Argentina had accepted a significant number of recommendations, including those made by Armenia. It commended Argentina for its commitment towards the protection of human rights and particularly for its contribution to the prevention of genocide and crimes against humanity at the international level.

### **3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders**

480. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Argentina, 8 other stakeholders made statements.

481. Edmund Rice International and VIVAT International valued the commitment of Argentina to appoint an Ombudsman for Children and Adolescents and recommended that this appointment be made as soon as possible. They regretted that the high standards for the protection of children foreseen by the legislation adopted in 2016 were not reflected in reality *inter alia* due to various political, budgetary and operational reasons. They noted that, as a result, vital services in this area were often carried out by civil, social and religious organisations and recommended that the Argentinian State, working with civil society, provide an integrated approach to child victims. They also recommended that Argentina develop and implement an effective complaint process to report abuse and that national, provincial and municipal authorities approve the necessary budgetary measures.

482. Instituto Internacionales Maria Ausiliatrice (IIMA) and International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development (VIDES International) welcomed Argentina's acceptance of all recommendations regarding the right to education, in particular of the one aimed at increasing educational infrastructure in the poorest areas. Nevertheless, they noted the lack of bilingual education for indigenous children and regretted the lowering of the minimum age of criminal responsibility and the increase of penalties in the juvenile penal system. They further reported the use of force against children of the Wichi and Mapuche Communities during recent police operations. IIMA and VIDES called on Argentina to strengthen Action Plan 2016-2018, especially regarding bilingual teaching; increase the minimum age for criminal liability; improve alternative punishment measures for children; and punish the use of force against children by police.

483. Action Canada for Population and Development (Action Canada) noted that Argentina had received several recommendations related to sexual rights, which highlighted Argentina's failure to comply with its human rights obligations. It regretted that no recommendation had been formulated regarding the violation of the sexual rights of persons with disabilities and remained concerned that Argentina had not accepted the recommendations on arbitrary detentions and on the decriminalization of abortion in all circumstances. Action Canada called on Argentina to take a number of measures, including to adopt a law guaranteeing legal, safe and free abortion; eliminate arbitrary detentions against trans population; ensure that persons with disabilities can freely exercise their sexuality; adopt legislation against discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation; and urgently implement throughout the country the legislation on sexual education, sexual and reproductive health and discrimination against women.

484. Amnesty International regretted that Argentina had not accepted 13 important recommendations, including those aimed at guaranteeing the right to consultation of indigenous people. It noted a substantial increase in forestry and extractive projects located

in traditional indigenous lands and welcomed the acceptance of a recommendation aimed at implementing the demarcation of indigenous lands. It also valued the Government's announcement of the forthcoming debate on the decriminalization of abortion in the National Congress, but it regretted that Argentina noted all the recommendations to decriminalize abortion. It further welcomed that Argentina had accepted recommendations aimed at guaranteeing freedom of association and assembly and ensuring the use of proportionate force by the police. Finally, it regretted that Argentina rejected a recommendation aiming at ensuring that the current migration legislation does not limit the human rights of migrants.

485. Human Right Watch noted that in Argentina abortion was illegal, except in the case of rape or when the life or health of the woman was at risk. However, it noted that also in these cases women had often been criminally prosecuted and faced difficulties to access reproductive health services. It welcomed the speech of the President of the Republic and the willingness to include abortion as an issue to be dealt with by the National Congress in 2018. It encouraged a sincere debate to decriminalize abortion in all circumstances and called on Argentina to accept the universal periodic review recommendations in this area.

486. The American Association of Jurists denounced the repression of the 14 December 2017 popular protests and the criminalization of protestors, which aimed at preventing the exercise of the right to petition and imposing by force unpopular measures prejudicial to the majority of the population. It stressed that, in violation of the principle of progressive realisation of economic and social rights, the Government had sent to the National Congress a bill that further reduced the pensions of millions of retirees and further noted that the project on labour reform involved the elimination of decades old workers' rights. Finally, it was concerned at the President of the Republic's public support to a police officer in a case of murder, which had been considered as an undue interference in the work of the judiciary.

487. International Lawyers.Org recognised the efforts made by Argentina to address concerns regarding freedom of expression, but noted that on occasion Argentina had failed to observe its human rights obligations and encouraged it to guarantee the rights of its citizens to participate in public demonstrations. It remained concerned by the use of excessive force by the police during mass demonstrations and by the arbitrary detention of protestors based solely on their participation in public demonstrations. International Lawyers.Org called on Argentina to guarantee the freedoms of peaceful assembly and association, opinion and expression. It further urged Argentina to ensure that the use of force by the police during demonstrations was proportionate and in line with the law.

488. Auspice Stella noted the endemic violation of human rights of the indigenous people in Argentina. In particular, it denounced cases of disappearances of Mapuche people that had not been investigated and whose perpetrators had not been prosecuted. It regretted that the Argentine Government had not taken reparatory measures to facilitate the reunion of Mapuche families broken up and dispersed since the military "Desert Campaign" 130 years ago. It further expressed concerns about the denial of the right of indigenous peoples to live in their ancestral land, which had been sold to multinational companies instead of being returned to the indigenous communities as established in the 169 Convention of the International Labour Organization. It also noted the violent repression of indigenous people by the police and the criminalization of peaceful struggle of the Mapuche people.

#### **4. Concluding remarks of the State under review**

489. The President stated that based on the information provided out of 188 recommendations received, 175 enjoy the support of Argentina and 13 are noted.

490. The delegation welcomed the comments received and informed that they would be duly analysed and transmitted to the relevant authorities. It however expressed its complete disagreement with the comments suggesting the existence in Argentina of Islamophobia and harassment against people of African descent.

491. With regard to the comments made on the issue of abortion, the delegation reiterated that, upon initiative of the President of the Republic, the debate on this issue in the National Congress was about to begin. It also stressed that Argentina had led the process of adoption of the resolutions on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity in the Human Rights Council.

492. The delegation concluded by emphasizing that, as pointed out by both the President and the Vice President of Republic before the United Nations General Assembly, in Argentina the promotion of gender equality was a State policy and was part of the 100 priority objectives of the Government.

## **Gabon**

493. The review of Gabon was held on 7 November 2017 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Gabon in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/GAB/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/GAB/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/GAB/3).

494. At its 37th meeting, on 15 March 2018, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Gabon (see section C below).

495. The outcome of the review of Gabon comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/37/6), the views of Gabon concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (*see also A/HRC/37/6/Add.1*).

### **1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome**

496. The head of the delegation, the Minister for Justice of Gabon, Edgard Anicet Mboumbou Miyakou, and the Director of the Prison Administration and the protection of human rights, A. Inès Laurenda Hadonou, praised the universal periodic review for the constructive spirit of the interactive dialogue between 73 countries and Gabon, which has accepted most of the recommendations made during the universal periodic review in November 2017.

497. Regarding ratification of international standards, the delegation noted that Gabon is a party to the majority of international human rights treaties. The process of ratification of other treaties has been under way.

498. In the political context, the delegation stated that the new Constitution was adopted. The major changes included the creation of the High Court of Justice; the special criminal court; reducing the number of senators; promotion of equality access of women and men to electoral mandates as well as political responsibilities; and reorganization of the Constitutional Court.

499. The delegation stated also that a number of draft laws were being adopted by the Council of Ministers, including a draft of law on elections. These bills resulted from the recommendations received during a political dialogue on electoral reforms, with a view to

improve the conditions for organizing political elections. Other draft legislation is on the distribution of the seats per Province, Department and Municipality; a draft legislation on the election of Deputies to National Assembly; a draft legislation amending certain provisions on the election of the President of the Republic; a draft legislation on the distribution of Senators seats.

500. The issue of the employment of young people was addressed also during the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (CESE) taking place on February 20, 2018. CESE was looking for ways and opportunities to generate a dynamic creation of jobs for young people to ensure sustainable economic and social stability in the country.

501. In regard to the prevention of torture, the delegation stated that the implementation of the roadmap for the establishment of the National Mechanism for Prevention of Torture made progress. A draft law was modified after important exchanges with the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Association on the Prevention of Torture. The law should be adopted by the Gabon Parliament in coming months.

502. Concerning the progress in the administration of justice, the delegation highlighted the law on the organisation of justice, the new Criminal Code and the new Criminal Procedure Code.

503. On the rights of the child, it was explained that in the second quarter of 2018, the Government would produce an integrated national strategy document for child protection, followed by a national action plan. The realization of these two documents will allow governmental and non-governmental actors to pool their actions with a view to an efficient and effective implementation of the public policy of childhood in Gabon.

504. The delegation stated that a training workshop on the prevention and fight against human trafficking and smuggling of migrants was organised for police officers, magistrates working with minors, personnel working in reception centres, and civil society organizations working on this subject.

505. On freedom of expression, the Council of Minister adopted a draft project of law on the establishment and organization of the High Communication Authority.

506. The delegation stated that the report of Gabon demonstrated Gabon's commitment to gradually improve its legal framework and its actions. Also, the report will increasingly allow an effective implementation of human rights at the national level. Gabon will continue to expand the application of the provisions of the different treaties, while supporting any initiative aimed at strengthening them.

## **2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

507. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Gabon, 12 delegations made statements. The statements of the delegations that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints<sup>46</sup> are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council, if uploaded.

508. Cuba recognized the work carried out by Gabon to comply with the recommendations received in the previous cycle of the universal periodic review. Cuba stated that it was confident that Gabon will continue doing the same to implement more than 120 recommendations accepted in their last review, including those presented by Cuba. Cuba encouraged Gabon to continue its actions for the protection of children which will be enhanced by the approval of the Children's Code as recommended by Cuba during the Working Group.

---

<sup>46</sup><https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/37thSession/Pages/default.aspx>

509. Egypt stated that Gabon had taken positive measures to improve the human rights situation in many sectors of the country, including the review of the National Commission on Human Rights to ensure that it was pursuant to the Paris Principles. Egypt stated there was also a bill to establish a National Preventive Mechanism against Torture and that training had been provided to law-enforcement personnel and this went hand in hand with efforts to guarantee the rights to health and education among others. Egypt welcomed the fact that Gabon accepted Egypt's recommendation on combating trafficking against children.

510. Ethiopia appreciated Gabon for engaging constructively with the Human Rights Council and accepting a significant number of recommendations including Ethiopia's one, which aim at continuing the implementation of a road map with a view of putting in place a National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture, and enhancing women's economic empowerment, particularly, in income generating activities.

511. Ghana commended Gabon for amending its Civil and Criminal Codes with the view to better address domestic and marital violence, particularly through the introduction of provisions in the Criminal Code to define and punish marital sexual assault. Ghana noted with appreciation that amendments to the law on the establishment and organization of the National Commission on Human Rights in order to bring it in compliance with the Paris Principles was before Parliament. Ghana urged the Government to pass the law at the earliest convenience, and to take necessary steps to implement provisions of the law.

512. Honduras acknowledged Gabon's commitment and constructive spirit and was pleased that Gabon had supported the recommendations made on the adoption of legislation that combats discrimination and that guarantees equal opportunities. Honduras congratulated Gabon for its commitment to adopt a legislation that is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, ending harmful practices on girls, such as early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation. Honduras was satisfied with Gabon's commitment to ratify The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter country Adoption.

513. Kenya stated that Gabon's acceptance of many recommendations demonstrated the long-standing commitment of Gabon to the implementation of the received recommendations. Kenya commended Gabon for the work it had undertaken in combating poverty. Kenya noted that the National Health Insurance and Social Protection Fund covered the costs of health, water and electricity and paid benefits to low-income families. Kenya encouraged Gabon to continue to implement the remaining recommendations.

514. Libya welcomed the steps taken by Gabon and the fact that Gabon had accepted a large number of recommendations made during the universal periodic review. Libya stated that it demonstrated Gabon's commitment to the universal periodic review process and its efforts to improve human rights.

515. Madagascar welcomed the actions undertaken by the Gabonese Government, particularly in the fight against school dropout rates, and covering of health, water and electricity costs by the National Health Insurance and Protection Fund. Madagascar noted with satisfaction the amendment of the Civil Code in the inheritance matters and the empowerment of women. Madagascar encouraged Gabon to continue efforts to make the promotion and protection of human rights more effective in the country.

516. Pakistan commended the Government of Gabon for accepting majority of the recommendations, including Pakistan's ones, which were made during the session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. Pakistan wished Gabon every success in the implementation of accepted recommendations.

517. The Philippines congratulated the Government of Gabon for supporting many of the recommendations received during the interactive dialogue, particularly issues relating to the prevention of the rights of the child and on women. The Philippines looked forward for the approval by its Parliament of the Children's Code aimed to prevent violence against children.

The Philippines appreciated Gabon's commitment to continue working on the promotion and protection of the human rights of its people.

518. Senegal welcomed Gabon's decision to accept 143 of 166 recommendations received during its review, including those made by Senegal. This reflected Gabon's commitment to better promote and defend human rights in line with its international commitments.

519. Morocco commended Gabon for taking many legislative and institutional measures and initiatives and for the efforts made to implement the recommendations accepted in the second cycle. Morocco also appreciated the attention given to the protection of the rights of the child through, inter alia, the adoption of a Children's Code and the project of setting up a national participative and permanent coordinating body. Morocco noted with satisfaction Gabon's commitment to the fight against torture as reflected in the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

### **3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders**

520. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Gabon, 6 other stakeholders made statements.

521. International Volunteerism Organization for Women Education and Development (VIDES) and Instituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice (IIMA) welcomed efforts to protect the Rights of the Child in collaboration with the local civil society organizations and United Nations organs. They congratulated Gabon for the acceptance of recommendation 118.22 on the adoption of the Children's Code and called on Gabon to fully implement it. They regretted the high cost of tuition fees that increase school dropout. They also noted the acceptance of recommendations 118.119 and 118.125. VIDES and IIMA encouraged the Government to take necessary measures to ensure that education is free and of high quality. They welcomed the existence of entrepreneurship program and called on Gabon to double its efforts to find alternatives to combat high unemployment of young people, to foster integration in the work place, and to reduce poverty.

522. Organisation pour la Communication en Afrique et de Promotion de la Coopération Economique Internationale (OCAPROCE Internationale) welcomed the creation of legal assistance offices for women and encouraged Gabon to increase its efforts for women representation in public life. OCAPROCE Internationale welcomed the creation of youth courts and the adoption of a national reproductive health strategy. It congratulated Gabon for establishment of a national health development plan and increasing resources allocated to medical assistance fund, for the adoption of a national strategy of gender equality, and for creating awareness of situation on lack of birth certificate. It remained concerned by the observations of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and Committee on Rights of the Child.

523. United Nations Watch remained concerned by the precarious situation of human rights in Gabon. It regretted arbitrary and politically motivated arrests. It called on an investigation against arbitrary arrest of demonstrators during the 2016 elections. It noted several examples of arrest of political opposition members and dissidents, including beating and travel ban. United Nations Watch stated that many of the dissidents face harsh conditions in the severely over-crowded prisons in Gabon. It stated that Gabon made Constitution changes to put the executive power in the hand of the president and that there were attempts to suppress political opposition. United Nations Watch called on Gabon to proceed with fair and transparent elections and hold responsible perpetrators of human rights violations.

524. Africa Culture Internationale congratulated Gabon for its substantial progress in maintaining stable and favourable conditions, and the development of legal, health and education infrastructures. It noted the realization of several project in collaboration with UNICEF and other international organizations. It encouraged Gabon to continue the cooperation program 2012-2016 between Gabon and UNFPA as well as the reintegration of

vulnerable girls, and the establishment of revenue generating activities in order to empower women and girls.

525. Rencontre Africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme (RADDHO) noted efforts made by Gabon including the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The abolition of death penalty, the adoption of legislation on minority rights and the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as well as legislation on equal rights for women in the workplace, however, needed further action from the Government. RADDHO further noted restrictions in the enjoyment of the rights to freedom of expression and assembly and cases of dissidents and opposition sympathizers' disappearances during 2016 elections and called on Gabon to impartially investigate those instances. RADDHO also called on Gabon to strengthen efforts to combat corruption, rape, sexual violence, ritual crimes and prison overcrowding.

526. International-Lawyers.Org commended Gabon's efforts for improving freedom and independence of press through the new Communication Code, including decriminalization of some offences foreseen in the legislation on the press. However, it was concerned about the vagueness of the communication code with regard to certain provisions that restrict freedom of expression, including prohibition of Gabonese nationals to work for local media outlets outside of the country, and about arrest and harassment of journalists. It called on Gabon to ensure the full exercise of the right of freedom of expression and to take the necessary steps to create a safe environment for journalists. International-Lawyers.Org recognized Gabon's reforms to improve living conditions and to reduce prison overcrowding. However, it urged Gabon to implement further measures to end inhuman prison conditions and limit the use of pre-trial detention.

#### 4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

527. The Vice-President stated that based on the information provided out of 166 recommendations received, 143 recommendations enjoy the support of Gabon and 23 are noted.

528. Gabon thanked the delegations that supported the adoption of the report and stated that it made important efforts to promote human rights, particularly concerning the right to health, fight against poverty, protection of rights of the child and women's rights. These proved Gabon's engagement in the improvement of living conditions for its citizens.

529. Finally, the delegation stated that there were no human rights violations in Gabon, there were no political prisoners and that no journalist was in jail. In Gabon there were only prisoners who violated provisions of general law. Investigations are carried out in accordance with the law, and if no guilt is proven, prisoners are released. Regarding the manifestation that took place on 31 August 2016, the delegation stated that nobody was sentenced to jail in connection with that event.

#### Ghana

530. The review of Ghana was held on 7 November 2017 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Ghana in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/27/GHA/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/27/GHA/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/27/GHA/3).

531. At its 38th meeting, on 15 March 2017, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Ghana (see section C below).

532. The outcome of the review of Ghana comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/36/7), the views of Ghana concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (*see also A/HRC/36/7/Add.1*).

**1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome**

533. The head of the delegation, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Republic of Ghana, Ramses Joseph Cleland, expressed his satisfaction for addressing the Human Rights Council on the occasion of the consideration of the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Ghana, held on 7th November 2017. On that day, the delegation was led by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Gloria Afua Akuffo.

534. Ghana stated that the list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Czechia, Germany, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was much welcomed by the delegation of Ghana.

535. Ghana also appreciated the interactive dialogue through which some ninety-eight delegations made interventions. A total of two hundred recommendations out of two hundred and forty-one recommendations, made during the interactive dialogue, enjoyed the support of Ghana. These recommendations, together with the remaining forty-one recommendations postponed for further consideration were adopted by the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on 10th November 2017.

536. After careful consultations on the pending forty-one recommendations, Ghana decided that twelve of those recommendations enjoy Ghana's support, namely recommendations 147.3, 147.4, 147.6, 147.7, 147.11, 147.14, 147.18, 147.21, 147.23, 147.24, 147.28, 147.41. This brings the total number of recommendations accepted by Ghana to two hundred and twelve. Recommendations 147.1, 147.5, 147.8-10, 147.12-13, 147.15-17, 147.19-20, 147.22, 147.25-27, 147.29-32, and 147.34-40 are noted.

537. Ghana partially accepted recommendations 147.2 and 147.33 and wished to clarify its position on recommendation 147.2. Ghana accepted the first part of recommendation 147.2 which reads "Continue strengthening the application of the Discrimination Complaint System that allows to protect the rights of people because of their sexual orientation and gender identity" as it is consistent with the measures being instituted by the Government to protect the rights of all persons within its territory from discrimination of any kind, including discrimination based on their sexual orientation and gender identity.

538. The second part of recommendation 147.2 which reads "and encourage that the education system include guidelines to prevent discrimination against students" was noted by Ghana because it limits the scope of the Government's efforts at fighting discrimination at all levels to just the education system.

539. Explanation of Ghana's position on recommendation 147.33 is contained in document HRC/37/7/Add.1 available on the universal periodic review extranet.

540. The advance questions received by the delegation of Ghana were dealt with during the interactive dialogue in November 2017, and Ghana appreciated the constructive spirit with which recommendations were made. Recommendations received covered many areas of human rights, including children's rights, the rights of persons belonging to the LGBTI community, mental health, and harmful traditional practices amongst others. Ghana also appreciated the solidarity, encouragement and support from States to continue to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in the coming years.



541. The delegation informed the Council that, regarding the many recommendations received on the Affirmative Action Bill, after Ghana's review in November 2017, the Ministry of Gender, Women and Social Protection of Ghana initiated a series of initiatives to push for the quick passage of the Affirmative Action Bill to further advance the course of women empowerment and gender equality. A campaign dubbed "He-for-She" was recently launched to sensitize the male-child to appreciate and support the girl-child in all endeavors to enable the former to act as Ambassadors to achieve this goal.

542. The Office of the Special Prosecutor, established by the Government in the last quarter of 2017 to strengthen the fight against corruption, became functional at the beginning of March 2018. As part of Government's effort to promote the full enjoyment of economic and social rights and eradicate poverty in the country, the Office of the Special Prosecutor, now operational, is expected to investigate cases of corruption involving political and public officials and to prosecute all persons found culpable.

543. During Ghana's review in November 2017, Ghana acknowledged the valuable contributions of civil society organizations in the country, which have helped strengthen Ghana's young democracy and the promotion and protection of human rights. Ghana looked forward to hearing interventions from representatives of NGOs with an open mind, as well as additional interventions from State delegations.

## **2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

544. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Ghana, 13 delegations made statements. The statements of the delegations that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints<sup>47</sup> are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council, if uploaded.

545. Ethiopia expressed appreciation to Ghana for accepting many of the recommendations made during its 3rd cycle of the universal periodic review including Ethiopia's recommendations aimed at intensifying the implementation of the coordinated initiative to end early, forced and child marriage and to continue implementing its project aimed at eliminating child trafficking and child labour in fishing communities. Ethiopia supported the adoption of the universal periodic review outcome of Ghana.

546. Gabon welcomed the measures taken in order to stop corporal punishments and other forms of violence against children, in their families as well as in schools. Gabon urged the Council to adopt Ghana's universal periodic review outcome.

547. Honduras acknowledged the recommendations supported by Ghana, especially its commitment to the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aimed at the abolition of the death penalty. Honduras regretted that Ghana did not accept to commit to the decriminalization of consensual sexual relations between persons of same sex and to put an end to discrimination against LGBTI persons.

548. Kenya recognized the demonstration of Ghana to a long-standing commitment to implement human rights and fundamental freedoms and applauded Ghana for the peaceful, transparent and inclusive elections of December 2016, which served as an example for most of the African continent. Kenya supported the adoption by the Council of Ghana's universal periodic review report.

549. Lesotho noted the vital national legislative framework put in place and the ratification of some of the core international human rights treaties and it appreciated social protection initiatives that have contributed in relieving the people from the morass of poverty. However, Lesotho also noticed some of the hurdles, which Ghana continued to contend with and as such called on the international community to extend to Ghana the requisite support.

<sup>47</sup> <https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/37thSession/Pages/default.aspx>

550. Libya commended the efforts made by Ghana in accepting a majority of the recommendations, and highlighted the determination that they had shown in implementing them. Libya encouraged the adoption of the universal periodic review report of Ghana.

551. Madagascar welcomed the actions taken by the Government of Ghana to elaborate a child and family protection policy in order to end corporal punishments and all other forms of violence inflicted on children whether at home or in schools. Madagascar invited the Council to adopt the report of the universal periodic review of Ghana.

552. Pakistan commended the Government of Ghana for accepting a majority of the recommendations made during the session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, including theirs and it requested the Council to adopt the universal periodic review outcome report of Ghana by consensus.

553. The Philippines encouraged the approval by the Ghanaian Government of the national gender equality bill that promotes women's participation in decision-making and politics. The Philippines supported the adoption by the Council of the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Ghana and called upon all Member States to do the same.

554. Senegal welcomed institutional legislative measures taken by Ghana to better promote the rights of women and children and those with the view to eradicating corruption. Senegal encouraged Ghana to pursue its efforts and called on the Council to adopt the report for the universal periodic review of Ghana.

555. Sierra Leone commended the recent strategies to provide free compulsory universal basic education for all children, as well as the establishment of the Justice Children Policy to protect children's rights within the justice system. Sierra Leone also encouraged Ghana to consider establishing policies and initiatives, which effectively address any incidents of stigmatization or discrimination faced by persons with albinism. Sierra Leone recommended that the universal periodic review report of Ghana be adopted.

556. South Africa appreciated the acceptance of its recommendations by Ghana on the implementation of the outcomes of the Constitutional Review, the completion of a National Human Rights Plan aligned to the 2030 Agenda and steps towards abolition of the death penalty. Furthermore, South Africa encouraged Ghana to continue increasing women's participation in decision-making and politics; countering stigmatization of people living with HIV/AIDS and prioritizing social protection interventions to address poverty and vulnerability.

557. The Sudan welcomed efforts to increase access to and improve quality education, reduce poverty and promote overall socio-economic development. The Sudan also noted with satisfaction that Ghana accepted the majority of the recommendations received during the review process and recommended the council to adopt the universal periodic review outcome report of Ghana.

### **3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders**

558. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Ghana, 8 other stakeholders made statements. The statements of the stakeholders that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints<sup>48</sup> are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council, if uploaded.

559. Defence for Children International (DCI) welcomed the Government's commitment to enhance the protection of children's rights through legislation, policies and national strategies, and encouraged it to continue working in partnership with civil society organizations and to ensure the effective implementation of child rights and child protection programs at all levels of implementation. Furthermore, DCI urged the Government to

---

<sup>48</sup><https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/37thSession/Pages/default.aspx>

reinforce its awareness-raising and educational programs that aim to prevent traditional harmful practices, such as child marriage and the resurgences of female genital mutilation.

560. Edmund Rice International valued Ghana's commitment to improving its standard of compulsory education. However, to ensure that all students benefit equally from free education, the Government should invest more in public schools, to improve the standard of infrastructure and teaching. Edmund Rice International recommended that Ghana take necessary steps to further motivate teachers, such as, provision of additional training and accommodation assistance, especially for those working in schools in rural areas. Edmund Rice International also recommended that Ghana regulated the tuition and supplementary fees charged by all schools and so create equal opportunities for families from all socio-economic areas.

561. Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie van Homoseksualiteit - COC Nederland commended Ghana for accepting the most general recommendations on violence and discrimination against Ghanaians, based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). However more concrete recommendations on SOGI have been noted, causing a continuation of grave concern about the equal application of human rights to all in Ghana, and the direct safety and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) Ghanaians. LGBT Ghanaians face frequent discrimination and violence, and there is no equal access to housing, health care, education and labour. Same-sex relations remain criminalized. COC Nederland urged Ghana to effectively implement Resolution 275 of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, which requires all African states to take positive steps to end violence and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

562. Swedish Association for Sexuality Education was concerned about stigma and rigid roles on gender roles as barriers hindering gender equality, protection of women and sexual minorities and opportunities for the young. Swedish Association for Sexuality Education called upon the Government of Ghana to buttress the on-going work for adopting and implementing the guidelines on comprehensive reproduction health education as part of the school-curricula and to ensure the right to access to sexual and reproductive health in all the national territory without discrimination.

563. Action Canada stated that Ghana has made strides in responding to particular forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls – including through passing laws that criminalise female genital mutilation, intimate partner violence and rape; and establishing mechanisms and specialised units tasked with responding to various forms of gender-based violence. However, slow and incomplete investigation of cases generate a climate of impunity and a lack of redress for survivors of violence. Action Canada noted with concern that once again Ghana has not accepted recommendations that call for repealing laws and policies which criminalise and discriminate against persons on the grounds of the sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, or to implement education programmes to reduce homophobia.

564. Human Rights Watch stated that despite important progress, conditions in psychiatric hospitals and prayer camps have not significantly improved since it documented a range of abuses in 2012. Psychiatric hospitals remain overcrowded and unsanitary. Persons with real or perceived psychosocial disabilities continue to live in psychiatric hospitals and prayer camps against their will and with little to no possibility of challenging their confinement. Human Rights Watch called on Ghana to enforce the ban on chaining and other forms of inhumane and degrading treatment through effective monitoring of psychiatric facilities and prayer camps by setting up the Mental Health Review Tribunal and visiting committees.

565. Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme (RADDHO) highlighted the progress made by Ghana regarding democratization: Ghana serves as a model of democracy in West Africa as well as an example for the rest of Africa. Progress has also been made regarding some initiatives aimed at protecting the rights of children and women, including addressing forced marriage and gender-based discrimination. RADDHO called on

the Government of Ghana to enhance its efforts in the campaign to stop traditional practices affecting women in the rural areas and to take action by implementing laws to that end. Finally, RADDHO encouraged Ghana to promote human rights education in all spheres of society and to continue its efforts of strengthening democracy in the country.

566. International Humanist and Ethical Union stated that violence and discrimination are common in Ghana as well as human rights abuse like domestic violence, female genital mutilation, child labour and child sacrifice. Persons with albinism are marginalized. International Humanist and Ethical Union was disappointed that universal periodic review recommendations on sexual orientation and gender identity and the protection of persons with albinism were noted by Ghana.

#### **4. Concluding remarks of the State under review**

567. The Vice-President stated that based on the information provided out of 241 recommendations received, 212 enjoy the support of Ghana, additional clarification was provided on another two recommendations, and 27 are noted.

568. The head of the delegation stated that the third cycle of the universal periodic review has provided Ghana with the opportunity for reassessing progress made so far on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the country. Ghana remained committed to engaging all relevant stakeholders who are willing to assist with the implementation of recommendations as contained in the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. Moreover, in November 2017 the Office of the Attorney General completed the process for establishing and hosting an Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee on Human Rights as a dedicated National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up of Universal Periodic Review and Treaty Bodies Recommendations, which will be inaugurated by the Attorney-General and the Minister for Justice by the end of March 2018.

#### **Peru**

569. The review of Peru was held on 8th November 2017 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Peru in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/PER/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/PER/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/PER/3).

570. At its 38th meeting, on 15 March 2018, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Peru (see section C below).

571. The outcome of the review of Peru comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/37/8), the views of Peru concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (*see also A/HRC/37/8/Add.1*).

**1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome**

572. The head of the delegation, the Permanent Representative of Peru, Claudio Julio De la Puente Ribeyro, noted that after broad and careful assessment involving all the sectors concerned, Peru decided to accept the vast majority of the recommendations, 177 out of a total of 182. This response reflects the commitment of Peru to the promotion and protection of human rights and the United Nations system, and the seriousness with which Peru has assumed its responsibilities as a member of this Council. This response is also a reaffirmation of the openness towards the recommendations.

573. Peru was convinced that its acceptance of the recommendations will be extremely useful in reviewing and the implementation of public policies resulting in an improvement in the situation for Peruvians and for all those living in the country.

574. Noting that there were areas in which the country should improve, Peru indicated that it believed that any objective approach to the human rights situation in the country would come to a conclusion that there had been a consistent improvement as a consequence of the strong commitment of successive democratic governments, with the active participation of the civil society.

575. The recommendations received and accepted were connected with those areas where it was necessary to allocate more resources and redouble efforts from the State. Peru made few comments on the recommendations noted by the country.

576. On the selection of the candidates for United Nations Treaty Bodies, Peru followed strict criteria of merit, which has meant recognition of the work of the current Peruvian members in different committees.

577. On the recommendations regarding the Voluntary Principles, it was specified that these commitments could be assumed freely by the companies, indistinctly of the eventual adhesion of the State in whose territory they operated.

578. Regarding recommendation 111.102 of “decriminalizing abortion in all circumstances and ensuring that women and girls have access to safe and legal abortion” it was noted because the term “in all circumstances” was incompatible with the international standards on the subject.

579. Regarding the recommendations on the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Peru considered that the country was in line with what had been suggested, since Peru has maintained a de facto moratorium on the application of the death penalty. The last execution took place in 1979, so although the death penalty had not been formally abolished, a policy of non-application had been maintained.

580. Peru informed that on 1st February 2018, the country approved its third National Human Rights Action Plan 2018-2021 (NHRAP). This was a multisectoral strategic tool aimed at assuring the management of human rights public policies, achieving an educational and cultural change in favour of human rights and at promoting regulatory changes in order to adapt the legal system to international human rights standards.

581. The Plan addressed several of the recommendations received in this cycle, including those related to groups in situation of special protection. Furthermore, the implementation of international standards on business and human rights had been incorporated as a new guideline, establishing the commitment to adopt a “National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights” in 2019, which will promote the progressive implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles. The NHRAP had crosscutting policies in order to promote a culture of peace, the protection of the human rights of all citizens, as well as guiding principles for sectorial public policies.

582. The Plan attaches special attention to 13 groups in situation of special protection, among them the Afro-descendant population; girls, boys and adolescents; people deprived of liberty; victims of terrorism; women; LGBTI persons; among others. All these groups were the subject of various recommendations and comments during this universal periodic review. Several delegations and civil society organizations recognized the positive attitude for having accepted those recommendations.

583. In 2017, Peru had approved the new National Plan against Trafficking in Persons, which established the participation of the actors involved in dealing with this problem. The Plan was articulated in three areas: 1) institutional governance, prevention and awareness; 2) attention, protection, reintegration; and 3) control and prosecution of the crime.

584. Peru also informed about other normative developments, such as the aggravation of the penalties for the crime of enforced disappearance; the modification of the type of torture; the classification of the crime of forced labour; norms aimed to fight against femicide; the search for missing persons 1980-2000, among others. In other areas, since 2015, there was a National Policy for the mainstreaming of the intercultural approach for the benefit of those populations, which prioritized access to the health, education and justice.

## **2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

585. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Peru, 11 delegations made statements.

586. UNICEF welcomed recent progress towards the realization of child rights in Peru such as the Decree of Law 1297 regarding the protection of children without parental care, the Decree of Law 1348 pertaining to Adolescent Criminal Justice Code and the Law 30403 that prohibits corporal and humiliating punishment. It expressed concerns that child victims of violence, exploitation and family abandonment were not yet receiving adequate protection. UNICEF noted that the strengthening of specialized protection services, full access to specialized justice and greater development of alternative family-base care were necessary.

587. Algeria welcomed the significant progress made by Peru in the protection and promotion of human rights, particularly regarding the achievements in the fight against discrimination, torture, force labor, the protection of women, and the steps taken to ratify a number of international human rights instruments. Algeria welcomed Peru's cooperation with the universal periodic review mechanism and its acceptance of most of the recommendations received, including those of Algeria about the protection of domestic worker and the improvement of living standards, especially in rural areas.

588. Brazil welcomed the efforts undertaken by Peru to advance in the promotion and protection of human rights. Brazil congratulated Peru for the designation of an institution in charge of the National Preventive Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture, for progress in respecting the rights of LGBTI persons, and the promotion of economic and social rights. Brazil encouraged Peru to continue advancing in the realization of human rights through the implementation of the accepted universal periodic review recommendations. Brazil reiterated its willingness to continue the dialogue with Peru on human rights issues, bilaterally, regionally and globally.

589. Chile congratulated Peru for the approval of its Third National Human Rights Plan 2018-2021. It noted that the plan incorporated several of the recommendations received in the third universal periodic review cycle, including those related to some of the main problems of the groups in a situation of special protection. Chile commended the implementation of international standards on business and human rights and the commitment expressed to have a National Plan of Action on Business and Human Rights in 2019. Chile welcomed the willingness of Peru to promote and ratify pending international human rights treaties.

590. China commended Peru for its constructive dialogue during the entire universal periodic review process. It thanked Peru for having accepted China's recommendations. China hoped that Peru continues promoting economic and social development, poverty reduction actions, improving living standards and education. China encouraged Peru to continue its efforts in order to reach gender balance and eliminate all forms of violence against women.

591. Egypt welcomed the participation of Peru in its third universal periodic review cycle. It thanked Peru for its presentation where the country provided an extensive update of the main actions aimed to promote and protect human rights in Peru. Egypt welcomed Peru for supporting a large number of the recommendations received during the interactive dialogue, and appreciated Peru's constructive spirit of cooperation with the Human Rights Council. Egypt noted the efforts of Peru in order to promote human rights in the country and in particular, for its cooperation with the Treaty Bodies.

592. Haiti thanked Peru for having accepted the three recommendations made by Haiti, and in particular for accepting the recommendation 111.178 regarding to the Afro-Peruvians peoples. It noted that the acceptance of this recommendations will generate greater progress for these peoples. Haiti noted positively the adoption of the Third National Human Plan (2018-2021), which incorporated a number of recommendations received during the three universal periodic review cycles. Haiti encouraged Peru to put in place in 2019, the announced National Plan of Action on Business and Human Rights.

593. Honduras welcomed the delegation of Peru and commended its commitment, transparency and its constructive spirit shown during the universal periodic review process. Honduras hoped that Peru will be supporting the recommendations made by Honduras regarding the prevention of violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and hate crimes. Honduras hoped that Peru will commit itself to develop education programs for the prevention of child labor. Honduras reiterated its support to Peru and its willingness of cooperation with Peru in the area of human rights.

594. Sierra Leone noted that Peru had adopted its Third National Human Plan (2018-2021) and that there was an intention to adopt a National Plan of Action on Business and Human Rights in 2019. It noted positively that Peru will be using these two tools to more effectively promote and implement human rights norms and protect fundamental freedoms nationally. Sierra Leone encouraged Peru to consider establishing initiatives to disaggregate the negative impacts of environmental degradation and to ensure that asylum seekers have equal access to universal health care services.

595. The Philippines congratulated Peru for supporting a large number of the recommendations received during the interactive dialogue, including the one recommendation presented by the Philippine delegation. The Philippines appreciated Peru's constructive engagement in the universal periodic review process and unwavering commitment to continue working on the promotion and protection of the human rights of its people, especially in the areas of women, children and migrants among others.

596. UNFPA stated that Peru had shown significant progress in terms of women's human rights. These advances were a clear expression of Peru's commitment to the Population and Development Agenda contained in the Cairo Program of Action and the Montevideo Consensus. It noted the challenges that girls and women had to face in relation to the exercise of their rights to sexual and reproductive health and the right to live free of violence. UNFPA was concerned about the problem of teenage pregnancy in Peru and noted the need to continue generating disaggregated data about some populations.

### 3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

597. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Peru, 8 other stakeholders made statements. The statements of the stakeholders that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints<sup>49</sup> are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council, if uploaded.

598. The Centre for Reproductive Rights Inc. noted that in Peru a pregnancy could only be legally interrupted in order to save the life of the woman or to avoid serious and permanent damage to her health, also known as “therapeutic abortion” and therefore, it regretted that Peru only took note of the recommendation made under its review to decriminalize abortion in all instances. The Centre for Reproductive Rights Inc. stated that a pending lawsuit before the Constitutional Court could potentially ban therapeutic abortion, preventing all women and girls seeking abortions under the current law to do so and it worried that these developments were happening in a wider context of backlash against women’s sexual and reproductive rights in Peru.

599. Edmund Rice International Limited valued that Peru had laws and regulations that prohibited the use of physical and humiliating punishment on children. However, it noted that the Government had inadequate capacity to carry out effective enforcement of the law due to lack of resources and lack of expertise and skills from part of the institutions to ensure fulfillment of the law on the protection of the rights of children against any type of violence. Therefore, Edmund Rice International Limited encouraged Peru to guarantee the effective enforcement of Law No. 30,403 by encouraging the application of multi-sector policies across all agencies.

600. The International Commission of Jurists regretted that the investigation and punishment of those responsible for serious human rights violations had not received the attention they deserved and that on the opposite, the fight against impunity took several steps back when granting a pardon to former President Alberto Fujimori. The International Commission of Jurists reminded Peru that one of the recommendations that they accepted referred to the investigations and reparations of thousands of women who suffered from forced sterilization under the Fujimori government and that granting him a pardon would exonerate him from investigations and sanctions. In this regard, the International Commission of Jurists urged Peru to execute the recommendations of the international community with respect to international standards, which prohibit impunity for grave human rights violations.

601. International Service for Human Rights stated that granting a pardon to former President Alberto Fujimori highlighted the limited progress Peru had made in the field of justice and it also noted the assassination of human rights defender Napoleon Tarrillo in December 2017, stating that in the middle of this political crisis, human rights defenders had become more vulnerable. International Service for Human Rights therefore, encouraged the government of Peru to stop the use of pardons which affected the rule of law and the legitimacy of the democracy of the state; to facilitate the process for access to justice; and to develop and implement a protection policy for human rights defenders with concrete and urgent measures to reduce the risks faced for the work they do.

602. Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Bon Bosco (IIMA) commended Peru for increasing the budget for education by more than 50 per cent, thus decreasing the rural education gap and establishing more medical care programmes. IIMA however, noted that indigenous children still suffered from funding distribution disparity and discrimination in the exercise of their rights to education and health. Therefore, IIMA encouraged Peru to allocate more funding for education of indigenous children and develop an inclusive multi-intercultural curriculum; to continue its efforts to identify special measures to ensure their rights to education and healthcare; and to provide preventive programmes to address violence against indigenous women and increase support services for survivors.

---

<sup>49</sup><https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/34thSession/Pages/default.aspx>



603. Amnesty International regretted that in December 2017, President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski granted a pardon to former President Alberto Fujimori who was sentenced to prison for crimes against humanity and noted that this act had serious consequences for the right to truth, justice and reparation of victims. Amnesty International however, welcomed the decision of the National Criminal Court of Peru not to apply the presidential grace but to continue the proceedings brought against the former president. Amnesty International urged Peru to implement emergency health plans in Indigenous communities affected by water contamination and to repeal all legislations that criminalize abortion.

604. Centro de Promoción y Defensa de los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos welcomed the accepted recommendations with regards to the sexual and reproductive rights of LGBT people and recognized the efforts made by Peru to include them for the first time in public policies and to punish violence against them. However, it regretted that the new National Plan for Human Rights did not even include the judicial protection of non-heterosexual couples or the gender identities of trans people. Centro de Promoción y Defensa de los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos was preoccupied by the context in which the commitments of the State of Peru would be implemented as the legislative power was the principal opponent to gender equality, sexual and reproductive rights and equality for LGBT people.

605. National Coordinator for Human Rights stated that the improper and unjust pardon granted to former President Alberto Fujimori was an act that took away the right to justice and hurt the memory and the dignity of the victims. National Coordinator for Human Rights noted that this action reaffirmed impunity and it reminded on the one hand, States and the international community of their obligations to ensure compliance and respect with judicial sentences and on the other hand, Peru of its obligations and commitments in terms of human rights. In this regard, National Coordinator for Human Rights encouraged the Human Rights Council to monitor Peru's compliance with the recommendations received during the universal periodic review.

#### **4. Concluding remarks of the State under review**

606. The President stated that based on the information provided out of 182 recommendations received, 177 enjoy the support of Peru, and 5 are noted.

607. Peru thanked the constructive approach of the States and the delegates of the civil society, who had taken into consideration the advances of Peru, as well as the different pending challenges.

608. Peru recognized the special sensitivity generated by some issues raised by few NGOs and in this regard pointed out that the country is respectful of its international commitments, as well as of the provisions set forth in its domestic legal and constitutional order.

609. To the delegations of some countries and delegates of civil society organisations that had reiterated their concern about the issue of sexual and reproductive rights, Peru reiterated its commitment to continue working in order to advance in this subject. Peru stated that the country had accepted about six recommendations regarding sexual and reproductive rights.

610. Peru was aware that the acceptance of the recommendations was an initial step, and the implementation of these will imply new challenges and mean a positive change on the ground. As noted before this Council last November, the head of the delegation stated that Peru recognizes as a political and ethical imperative the need to continue deepening and improving these efforts to overcome the differences and social gaps that still exists and to continue consolidating the democracy and the respect for the rights of all its citizens and of all persons under its jurisdiction.

## Guatemala

611. The review of Guatemala was held on 8 November 2017 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Guatemala in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/GTM/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/GTM/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/GTM/3).

612. At its 38th meeting, on 15 March 2018, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Guatemala (see section C below).

613. The outcome of the review of Guatemala comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/37/9), the views of Guatemala concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (*see also A/HRC/37/9/Add.1*).

### 1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome

614. The delegation of Guatemala reiterated that out of 205 recommendations, 150 were accepted and 55 were taken note of, because either their implementation corresponded exclusively to the competencies of the Legislative or Judicial Organs, and or were related with subjects that at the national level, were still being discussed and for the moment did not have consensus within relevant actors.

615. With regard to recommendations 112.1-112.5 and 112.24-112.33 concerning death penalty, the delegation underscored that the Constitutional Court had decided to leave the application of death penalty for crimes established in the Criminal Code, and abolish the death penalty for crimes established under the Law on Drug Trafficking.

616. On the recommendations 112.6 and 112.7 to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, the delegation stated that a consultation process within relevant institutions was ongoing.

617. On recommendations 112.8-112.10 about ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the delegation underscored that it was currently discussed in Congress with favourable opinions by several institutions.

618. With regard to recommendations 112.14 and 112.15 related to the creation of the National Search Commission for Missing Persons, its approval process continued before Congress, pending a final approval.

619. Regarding recommendation 112.23 related to the criminalization of the diffusion of ideas based on superiority and racial hatred, the initiative of Law No. 4539 that provided for reforms to the Criminal Code including an article on dissemination and incitement to racial discrimination was still in process for its final approval by Congress.

620. Regarding recommendation 112.13 about the nomination of national candidates for elections to treaty bodies of the United Nations, the delegation underscored that the State of Guatemala, had always proposed candidates based on their abilities, recognition, and expertise.

621. Regarding recommendations 112.15-112.20 related to the LGBTI population, the Constitution recognized that all Guatemalans were free and equal in dignity and rights, so that, independently of the approval of specific policies, the national institutions were obliged to provide their corresponding services.

622. On recommendations 112.50 and 112.51 referring to access to justice for violations against the rights of LGBTI population, the delegation asserted that the state had made important efforts in terms of prevention, investigation and punishment for violations of the human rights of women and transgender people, as well as on access to justice for the victims of these crimes. However, as it corresponded to the specific competencies of the Judicial Branch and the Public Ministry, these recommendations were noted.

623. Regarding recommendations 112.11, 112.12, 112.21 and 112.22 on the Consultation of Indigenous Peoples, the President of the Republic promoted as a priority actions that allowed the Presidents of the three branches of the state to launch the process of construction of the "Operational Guide for the Implementation of the Consultation of Indigenous Peoples", approved in July 2017.

624. On the recommendation 112.35 related to human rights defenders, Guatemala reiterated what was indicated on November 14, 2017, considering that it did not correspond to the objectivity and impartiality with which the justice system operated.

625. On recommendations 112.36 and 112.38 on the justice system, Guatemala was in the process of reforming the entire justice system.

626. Regarding recommendation 112.37 related to a mechanism of election of judges, the delegation asserted that Decree No. 19-2009 Law of Nomination Commission regulated and established objective and concrete mechanisms and procedures regarding the selection of the lists of candidates for positions that exercise public functions.

627. On recommendations 112.39 and 112.40 related to the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) the delegation highlighted that in accordance with the agreement establishing the f said Commission, it was not the responsibility of the State to decentralize it. The President renewed in April 2016 the mandate of that Commission for two more years with its primary objective to continue the investigation of parallel bodies and clandestine security apparatuses, within the framework of the process of consolidating peace, justice, democracy and strengthening the rule of law.

628. Guatemala noted recommendation 112.41 on accelerating the progress of trials to the perpetrators of acts of genocide and crimes against humanity, reiterating the respect and independence of the division of powers.

629. Guatemala took note of recommendation 112.42 related to poverty on the grounds that to "Consider the possibility" of establishing a basic income to reduce the levels of poverty and inequality, did not reflect the actions that through different public policies the government was already undertaking.

630. Recommendations 112.43-112.46 related to the issue of reproductive health were noted, taking into account that the Law Against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons, indicated -regarding Sexual Assault or Rape- that this "crime is always committed when the victim is a person under fourteen years of age, or when he/she is a person with volitional or cognitive disability, even when there is no physical or psychological violence"

631. With regard to the issue of abortion addressed in recommendations 112.47, 112.52, and 112.55, Guatemala indicated that the Constitution protected life from conception, and the Guatemalan Penal Code only recognized "therapeutic abortion" as a non punishable offence as long as it is proven that the aim is to avoid danger to the mother.

632. Regarding recommendations 112.48 and 112.49 related to public office, Law initiative No. 5389 was submitted to Congress for approval, proposing reforms to the Electoral and

Political Parties Law, and seeking to include indigenous, and non-indigenous women, and indigenous and non-indigenous men in an equal manner in accordance with the ethnic population position of the corresponding electoral district.

633. With regard to recommendation 112.54, on attention of people with disabilities, the final adoption of Law Initiative 5125, which provided the approval of the Law on Persons with Disabilities, was pending final adoption in Congress.

## **2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

634. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Guatemala, 10 delegations made statements.

635. UNFPA expressed concern about pending challenges. It welcomed its alliance with public institutions and civil society actors to advance on sexual and reproductive rights and underscored inter alia, the following priorities: Follow-up to the public policies, programs and legislative agenda to advance the agenda of the International Conference on Population and development; and strengthen the Ombudsman's office regarding knowledge in sexual and reproductive rights.

636. Algeria congratulated Guatemala on its efforts made in terms of promoting and protecting human rights, especially regarding the fight against racial discrimination and human trafficking, the improvement of prison conditions, the protection of children and the fight against sexual violence and the care of victims. Algeria welcomed the engagement and cooperation of Guatemala and highlighted that both of its recommendations had been supported, one being on the treatment of structural causes of poverty in vulnerable communities and the other, on the protection of persons in places of detention.

637. Armenia took note with appreciation that both recommendations made by it, namely on continuing efforts to ensure the promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples and taking further measures to ensure children's access to education particularly of those with disabilities living in remote communities, were accepted by Guatemala.

638. Brazil took note that Guatemala was not able to accept the recommendations made by Brazil in its last cycle of the universal periodic review and invited the state to consider complementary measures to combat racial discrimination and sexual violence. Furthermore, Brazil appreciated the efforts of the state to continue advancing the fulfilment of human rights via the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations.

639. Chile welcomed that Guatemala had accepted 150 recommendations, two of which were formulated by Chile and related to the necessity of lifting restrictions on the freedom of expression and adopting legal measures for the protection and security of journalists; and to ensure that human rights defenders could carry out their legitimate activities without fear or impediment. Chile encouraged Guatemala to keep working on the accomplishment of its human rights commitments, including measures to guarantee the protection of the life, and the physical and psychological integrity of LGBTI people.

640. Egypt welcomed the efforts made by Guatemala in its acceptance of most of the recommendations, which reflected a spirit of cooperation with the Council and the mechanism and also reflected efforts made by the government to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and the will to persevere in cooperation with the treaty bodies.

641. Haiti thanked the delegation of Guatemala for having taken into account three out of its four recommendations formulated during the universal periodic review process. Haiti recognized that the government of Guatemala was leading public policy actions with the aim to reduce the poverty level and inequalities in the country. Haiti regretted that Guatemala had noted recommendation 112.42 relating to the universal minimum wage.

642. Honduras congratulated Guatemala for its commitment to include a gender approach in the Public Policy for Coexistence and Elimination of Racism and Racial Discrimination and its implementation plan, and for the allocation of human and financial resources for the application of the National Strategy to Prevent Chronic Malnutrition 2016-2010. Honduras expressed hope that Guatemala would adopt additional necessary measures to guarantee the universal access to sexual and reproductive health especially in rural areas.

643. The Philippines congratulated Guatemala for supporting most of the recommendations made during the interactive dialogue, including the two recommendations presented by the Philippines and it acknowledged Guatemala's adoption of several instruments to address the scourge of trafficking of persons. The Philippines appreciated the commitment of Guatemala to continue working on the promotion and protection of the human rights of its people, in particular on women and children's rights.

644. Sierra Leone noted the importance which Guatemala placed on bilateral and multilateral cooperation, as well as the strategies it had established to better promote and protect human rights, especially the efforts to combat teenage pregnancies through the Prevention with Education 2016-2020 programme, as well as the prevention and rehabilitation programmes for victims of sexual violence. Sierra Leone encouraged Guatemala to consider ratifying the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances (ICERD) in the near future.

### 3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

645. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Guatemala, 11 other stakeholders made statements. The statements of the stakeholders that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints<sup>50</sup> are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council, if uploaded.

646. The Human Rights Procurator of Guatemala, the national human rights institution, underscored that when corruption was widespread; people had no access to justice and were prevented from enjoying their human rights. The work of the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala CICIG and the Attorney General had yielded important results that showed that corruption in Guatemala was grave, systematic and generalized, and had permeated the state institutions. Therefore, it was crucial that all Branches support the efforts the CICIG and Attorney General, beyond discourse and being consistent with it. He asserted that Guatemala should harmonize its legislation to international standards. He urged Guatemala to carry out a consultation process on the policy for human rights defenders and journalists and adopt a protection mechanism for journalists. He denounced that because of his commitment against corruption and impunity, there were several attempts to limit his independence, even by Congress.

647. Plan International recommended that Guatemala, inter alia: adopt a specific legislative framework in favour of youth; monitor and implement the National Youth Policy 2012-2020 with the corresponding budget allocation; implement the universal periodic review recommendations regarding adolescent pregnancies, violence and sexual and reproductive exploitation; adopt new legislation that eliminates legal barriers and access by youth to HIV tests and modern contraceptive methods; stop the criminalization of defenders of sexual and reproductive rights; avoid the adoption of legal initiative 5272 that promotes discrimination against LGBTI people; implement a monitoring and evaluation system for recommendations that includes the participation of civil society.

648. World Organization against Torture stated that in 2017 there were 483 attacks against human rights defenders out of which 211 were women. It expressed concern about the climate of criminalization. Impunity rose to 97% in crimes against life, and this hindered the creation of effective protection mechanisms for defenders. It expressed particular concern about the climate of aggression, stigmatization, and criminalization promoted by the President of

<sup>50</sup><https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/34thSession/Pages/default.aspx>

Guatemala, deputies, and some business chambers and private agents. It underscored the pretensions to impeach the Ombudsman in the framework of a campaign against institutions that defended human rights. It noted the lack of materialization of the public policy on the protection of human rights defenders.

649. International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development welcomed the acceptance of recommendations 11.11 and 11.13 on indigenous peoples rights. It expressed concern about the situation of children and women on conditions of vulnerability, underscoring that frequently children living in public institutions were victims of violence and needed more state protection. It considered urgent to sensitize about the situation of violence against women and punish those responsible. It recommended Guatemala, inter alia, to: continue with an inclusive and quality education, especially for indigenous children; take measures to eliminate discrimination to indigenous communities regarding health and housing; and promote gender equality in the public sector, work opportunities and achieve equal remuneration.

650. Réseau International des Droits Humains noted Guatemala had committed in 2012 universal periodic review to create the program for protection of journalists and this promise had been reiterated by accepting recommendations on the subject in the present universal periodic review. It highlighted the impunity situation regarding the killings of journalists, many of which were allegedly related to delinquency groups with the complicity of local authorities. It called on Guatemala to implement accepted recommendations, particularly those related to the creation of a protection program for journalists. It invited Guatemala to establish dialogue to elaborate this program, which should include special protection measures for journalists in the periphery.

651. Action Canada asserted that in order to implement recommendations on gender, sexuality and violence against women, an integral and intersectional approach was needed by all state institutions. In this sense, the explanation about noted recommendations given by Guatemala about the distribution of the competencies among the different state branches made impossible the effective realization of relevant rights. It recalled that recommendations corresponding to the Legislative, the Judiciary or the Public Attorney were also part of the obligations of the Guatemalan state. Some of these recommendations were related to the punishment of hate crimes, access to justice and violence against women. It urged Guatemala to consider noted recommendations and take actions to implement them, in accordance to the respect towards its international obligations and its commitment towards the universal periodic review.

652. Advocates for Human Rights expressed concern that domestic violence, femicide, sexual and physical assault against women and other forms of violence against women remained serious problems. It stated Guatemalan clients who had fled human rights abuses had reported that police often failed to respond to calls for help related to domestic violence. It also noted widespread impunity on due to the failure to adequately investigate and prosecute these crimes. It stated that despite steps toward combating violence against women, relevant laws and mechanisms were poorly implemented. It encouraged Guatemala to implement universal periodic review recommendations on violence against women, collaborating with civil society, strengthening legislation and providing funding and training to implement the law.

653. Amnesty International urged the Government to implement recommendations related to protection measures for human rights defenders and adopt a public policy for their protection. It expressed deep concern about intimidation and attacks against judges and prosecutors, including the head of the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala, underscoring the risk it entailed for independence of the Judiciary. It regretted Guatemala's rejection of six recommendations on enforced disappearances and urged the Government to create a National Commission for the Search of Victims of Enforced Disappearance. It also urged Guatemala to adopt and implement policies to prevent all forms of violence against LGBTI persons.

654. Peace Brigades International underscored the deterioration of security and the closure of spaces for communities, organizations and indigenous defenders. On the right to prior and informed consent, after 80 community good-faith consultations whose results were not taken into account, the Government had elaborated Guidelines for consultation to indigenous peoples that would in short be adopted by Congress without due participation of indigenous peoples. It supported recommendations on the need for a holistic protection policy that included preventive elements, root causes and collective measures. It underscored recommendations to guarantee a full, previous and meaningful participation of indigenous peoples in all matters that affect their territory, life and rights and to put an end to the abuse of the penal system against them and the impunity for perpetrators of attacks against them.

655. Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund stated that since August 2017 the President initiated a national and international campaign against the work to fight corruption and impunity carried out by the Commissioner of the CICIG and the Attorney General. It warned about Congress discussing legal initiatives that would limit rights of association, peaceful demonstration and freedom of expression of civil society. It underscored the need for truth and justice for grave crimes committed in the past, among others the case of CREONPAZ, the biggest mass grave with exhumed victims in Latin America and the re-initiation for third time of the genocide process against Efraín Ríos Montt and José Rodríguez Sánchez. It recalled Guatemala's commitment to provide justice and reparation in the case of the 41 girls dead in a state foster home.

656. International Humanist and Ethical Union underscored the situation of violence against women, gender-based violence, impunity and human trafficking and the need for better implementation of related recommendations. It gave as an example the 41 girls burned alive in a State foster home due to gross negligence by authorities. It called on authorities to urgently strengthen protection measures for human rights defenders and journalists, as these continued to face threats, attacks, stigmatization and criminalization. It noted Guatemala's reluctant stance regarding penalizing hate crimes based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, calling for equal treatment regardless of gender, religion or sexual orientation.

#### **4. Concluding remarks of the State under review**

657. The President stated that based on the information provided out of 205 recommendations received, 150 enjoy the support of Guatemala and 55 are noted.

658. The delegation highlighted the efforts that Guatemala made to implement the universal periodic review recommendations. Guatemala wanted to consolidate its rule of law making clear to the international community that in Guatemala no one was above the law. Guatemala struggled to move forward, as it still had a fragile social fabric since the armed conflict, and its effects were not over.

659. The delegation underscored that Guatemala strived to comply with the requirements from the international community. It stated that Guatemala had asked donor countries to examine the fate of their resources as many of them may have not been used correctly. Guatemala had accepted 150 recommendations willingly. The delegation noted that the implementation process was not possible in one year, as progress took longer. The public policy for the protection of human rights defenders was being elaborated and should be agreed upon at a national level. Guatemala announced a consultation on this subject. The delegation stated that Guatemala needed all the moral support from the States to advance in all these subjects.

#### **Switzerland**

660. The review of Switzerland was held on 9 November 2017 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Switzerland in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/CHE/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/CHE/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/CHE/3).

661. At its 38th meeting, on 15 March 2018, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Switzerland (see section C below).

662. The outcome of the review of Switzerland comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/37/12), the views of Switzerland concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (*see also A/HRC/37/12/Add.1*).

**1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome**

663. Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations Office at Geneva, Valentin Zellweger, presented Switzerland's position on the recommendations received during its third universal periodic review to the Human Rights Council. The delegation indicated that they were particularly satisfied with the fact that the Confederation and the cantons closely cooperated in the review process. The involvement of the cantons was particularly important in view of their crucial role in the implementation of human rights at the domestic level. The delegation also expressed its gratitude for the contribution of civil society and, in particular, of the NGO platform.

664. Switzerland had deferred its position on 63 of the 251 recommendations received during the Working Group meeting. With regard to those recommendations, it had accepted 40 and noted 23. The decision to accept or note recommendations was taken after an in-depth analysis to determine whether Switzerland was in a position to implement them by the next universal periodic review or had already taken measures to address them. The domestic consultation process put in place by the Confederation, acting through the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Federal Department of Justice and Police, allowed to take into account the views of the cantons in their areas of competence, as well as of other stakeholders such as NGOs. The Conference of Cantonal Governments, which represents the 26 cantons, carried out a consultation process with all the cantonal governments and the inter-cantonal instances concerned.

665. The delegation set out in detail the country's position regarding the 63 recommendations that had been left pending. It recalled the established Swiss practice to make commitments at the international level only if such commitments could be honoured. Therefore, Switzerland did not accept recommendations where there was, at present, clearly no political will or decision for the required measures to be taken. At the same time, Switzerland continued, in an ambitious and decided manner, to improve the human rights situation in the country, which it considered to be good.

666. Concerning recommendations on the compatibility of popular initiatives and the country's obligation under international (human rights) law, the delegation indicated that three recommendations requesting that Switzerland ensure an effective and independent mechanism in this regard had been noted. The delegation recalled that popular initiatives already must respect peremptory norms of international law. Moreover, in 2016, the Parliament had rejected a draft Bill to review the law, with a view to reduce potential conflicts between popular initiatives and international law. It was recalled that the right of citizens to modify the Constitution through initiatives was a fundamental element of Swiss democracy.



Switzerland ensured that binding international law was respected during the subsequent process of legislation. The country would thus continue to honour its human rights obligations, addressing potential conflicts between its Constitution and human rights on a case by case basis.

667. Recommendations to adopt an action plan on LGBTI rights had been noted as Switzerland considered that it was more effective to support organizations and concrete projects, particularly at the local level. Switzerland continued to protect the human rights of the LGBTI community and training in their human rights is part of the training provided to police and judicial authorities.

668. The delegation indicated that Switzerland had not accepted several recommendations requesting it to continue efforts to put in place a binding mechanism against abuses committed by corporations with their headquarters in the country. The delegation nonetheless highlighted the importance of this issue and recalled the recent adoption of a national action plan on the implementation of the United Nations guiding principles on business and human rights. However, the establishment of a legally binding global mechanism was considered too restrictive for the time being.

669. Switzerland had not accepted recommendations to provide effective legal protection and fair compensation in case of violation of rights linked to acts of racial discrimination and to introduce specific legislation prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity or intersex status. These recommendations were noted for several reasons. Switzerland considered that article 261bis of the Criminal Code provides comprehensive legal protection against discrimination. Further, requests to adopt a general law against discrimination were not new and Switzerland had adopted numerous measures in this regard. Thirdly, a thorough analysis had established that each different ground for discrimination had particular characteristics that required specific responses. The delegation provided information regarding relevant reports and also concerning the law on registered partnerships, which offered homosexual couples most of the rights enjoyed by married couples, as well the Act on the Elimination of the Disparities Affecting Persons with Disabilities.

670. Concerning accepted recommendations, the delegation reaffirmed the country's commitment to combat discrimination between men and women. It noted that measures to combat domestic violence continued to be adopted, including with the implementation of the Istanbul Convention. Switzerland had also funded specific programmes to promote equality between men and women and taken measures to eliminate discrimination based on gender in the social insurance system. Efforts to promote a balanced representation between men and women in leadership positions continued and the delegation provided examples of measures adopted in this regard.

671. The delegation indicated that, in line with the country's humanitarian tradition and conscious that nearly a quarter of its population was of foreign origin, Switzerland made efforts to implement a welcoming immigration policy and to offer good conditions to migrants, as well as a functioning and effective asylum system, providing the necessary protection to refugees.

672. The revised asylum act aimed at accelerating individual asylum procedures, while ensuring/enhancing their conformity with the rule of law. As this law is in accordance with the recommendations of the Swiss Refugee Council Aid with regard to unaccompanied minors, Switzerland had accepted recommendations regarding the needs of unaccompanied minors.

673. The delegation noted that a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principle did not yet exist in Switzerland. However, steps to create such an institution had been taken and consultations were being carried out on a draft law. It was observed, however, that the final decision rested with the Federal Council and the Parliament and was in no way prejudged by the acceptance of recommendations on this issue.

## 2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome

674. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Switzerland, 13 delegations made statements. The statements of the delegations that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints<sup>51</sup> are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council, if uploaded.

675. Viet Nam expressed appreciation for Switzerland's contribution to international cooperation in the area of human rights. It congratulated Switzerland for organizing human rights dialogues with other countries on the basis of mutual respect, and commended, in particular, the fruitful results of the dialogues with Viet Nam. It noted with satisfaction the high number of recommendations accepted by Switzerland.

676. Afghanistan commended Switzerland for its constructive engagement with the universal periodic review. It expressed appreciation for Switzerland's support for its recommendations to ensure the full application of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees; and to ensure minimum reception standards in Federal and Cantonal reception centres across the country.

677. Albania appreciated the work of the Government on its policy of integration and coexistence. It noted with satisfaction that Switzerland had accepted the majority of the recommendations received during its review, including the recommendation to conduct broad and systematic awareness-raising activities to combat stigmatization, clichés, stereotypes and prejudices faced by non-Swiss nationals.

678. Armenia welcomed the acceptance by Switzerland of most of the recommendations received during the third cycle of the universal periodic review and its continued commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights internationally.

679. Bahrain commended Switzerland for the large number of recommendations accepted and especially the one on evaluating the success of the 2014–2017 Cantonal Integration Programmes. It stated that Switzerland should adopt new laws to ensure that migrants fully enjoy social and political rights.

680. Egypt encouraged Switzerland to positively consider the five recommendations it had made during the review, including those on the protection of religious minorities, measures to ensure gender equality, including the prohibition of torture as a crime in legislation, and on business and human rights.

681. Haiti commended Switzerland for accepting the recommendation to increase its development assistance in order to reach 0.7% of GNP. It regretted that the recommendation concerning the establishment of a regulatory framework to assess the environmental impact of companies that have their headquarters in Switzerland was only noted.

682. Honduras welcomed Switzerland's commitment to adopt a new national action plan against trafficking in persons with a gender perspective as well as a federal gender equality strategy. It encouraged Switzerland to consider a federal policy and action plan to combat discrimination and violence against LGTBI persons and include them in national suicide surveys.

683. The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed the acceptance by Switzerland of one of the three recommendations it had made, and hoped to see these recommendations fully implemented. It expressed concern about racist stereotypes made by some political parties and media outlets, and about reports that the Swiss Resource Centre for Human Rights would not have an explicit human rights protection mandate

684. Kenya thanked Switzerland for its constructive engagement during the universal periodic review and hoped that, among the recommendations it would consider

---

<sup>51</sup><https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/34thSession/Pages/default.aspx>

implementing, it would include the recommendation on the protection and the support of the family as the natural and fundamental group unit of society.

685. The Lao People's Democratic Republic commended Switzerland for supporting 160 recommendations during the third cycle of the universal periodic review. It also praised Switzerland for promoting freedom of expression, combating domestic violence and enhancing the rights of vulnerable groups, particularly the rights of the child by acceding to the OP-CRC on a Communications Procedure.

686. Gabon congratulated Switzerland for its commitment to implementing the recommendations it had accepted during the review. It highlighted action adopted by Switzerland aimed at improving the human rights situation in the country noting, in particular, measures to combat trafficking in persons such as the adoption of a new action plan on the issue. It encouraged Switzerland to continue its efforts to implement the recommendations it had received during its universal periodic review.

687. Madagascar commended Switzerland for the efforts made to promote and protect human rights, including the adoption of the new Asylum Act and the establishment of a national action plan on trafficking in persons. It noted that the Swiss citizenship act that came into force in January 2018 still masked discrimination against non-European having lived and worked for many years in Switzerland within the framework of international relations.

### 3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

688. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Switzerland, 10 other stakeholders made statements. The statements of the stakeholders that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints<sup>52</sup> are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council, if uploaded.

689. The Centre for Global Nonkilling thanked Switzerland for accepting recommendations concerning the prevention of suicide. It highlighted that suicide was the second cause of violent deaths in the world. It expressed the hope that Switzerland's action plan for the prevention of suicide and the implementation of these recommendations would inspire other countries to take action to reduce the number of suicides.

690. The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues stated that despite equal pay being a constitutional law requirement, women earned 20% less than men in the private sector and 17% less in the public sector. Higher salaries and higher positions systematically favoured men, even in higher education where female students were a majority. At universities such as Geneva, 85% of professors were men and only 15 % women. It recommended strengthening the Gender Equality Act, and aligning it with CEDAW and the European Convention on Human Rights and taking action to apply without delay labour law in the Swiss Constitution prohibiting gender-based discrimination.

691. The International Lesbian and Gay Association stated that Switzerland had received 12 Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) recommendations including 4 trans-specific recommendations. It indicated, however, that Switzerland had noted 8 of these recommendations. It regretted Switzerland's statement during the Working Group that the situation in the country did not endanger the life of LGBTI individuals, noting that many had lost trans persons to suicide. It welcomed the fact that Switzerland expressed its willingness to implement 4 SOGI recommendations.

692. Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life Inc. Education Fund indicated that the number of assisted suicides in Switzerland had increased every year since 2008. Many persons who were not terminally ill received assisted suicide and the percentage of non-terminal suicides was growing. It stated that assisted suicide could threaten the right to health by preventing persons from receiving care to which they were entitled, including mental health care and

<sup>52</sup><https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/34thSession/Pages/default.aspx>

palliative care. It also indicated that research had shown that patients generally opted for assisted suicides because of concerns about dependency and reduced autonomy.

693. Action Canada for Population and Development welcomed the acceptance of recommendations addressing discrimination, including those based on discrimination against LGBTI persons. However, it was concerned that Switzerland did not support numerous recommendations that would have led to comprehensive legislative changes or new legislation to address discrimination. While congratulating the Government on accepting recommendations to address gender inequality, it was deeply concerned that Switzerland did not support the recommendation to “adopt legislation allowing for paternity leave”. It stated that Switzerland remained the only country in Europe without statutory paternity or parental leave.

694. Amnesty International noted that Switzerland had accepted several non-binding recommendations to introduce mechanisms to ensure the compatibility of popular initiatives with its obligations under international law but regretted that it had not supported any binding commitment in this regard. It also regretted that Switzerland refused to recognize the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights, to ratify the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR and to include in its criminal law a provision which explicitly prohibited torture. It stated that, as in the last review, Switzerland had received numerous recommendations on the issue of discrimination, including recommendations to introduce comprehensive legislation on discrimination, which were systematically rejected.

695. Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development congratulated Switzerland for integrating human rights at the core of its political system. It noted Switzerland’s action on migration and to welcome refugees and noted that integration was a priority for the country. It took note of the launching of the Cantonal Integration Programmes in 2014 and indicated it was an important step for the integration of foreign nationals.

696. Africa Culture Internationale congratulated Switzerland for its substantive progress in maintaining stability in the country through the development of domestic legal infrastructure. It noted a number of positive reforms in several areas, including engagement with United Nations human rights mechanisms and the ratification on international human rights instruments. It encouraged the Government to give priority to development, gender equality, the protection of migrants as well as to combating racism and restrictions on movements of asylum seekers.

697. World Barua Organization welcomed Switzerland’s action against cultural relativism and their advocacy of the universal, interdependent and indivisible character of human rights. It highlighted Switzerland’s commitment to strengthening human rights institutions at the global, regional and national levels, particularly by strengthening the Human Rights Council. It also acknowledged Switzerland’s support for the United Nations Guiding Principles on business and human rights.

698. NGO Coordination post Beijing Switzerland noted that according to the NGO Platform for Human Rights Switzerland, the universal periodic review had depicted the gaps in human rights protection in the Swiss system relatively well. It was pleased to note that the longstanding demand for a coordinated implementation of universal periodic recommendations had been accepted as well as recommendations concerning the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution. Nonetheless, only the non-binding recommendations concerning the introduction of mechanisms to ensure the compatibility of popular initiatives with international human rights conventions had been accepted while the implementation of an independent mechanism was rejected. It stated that the large number of recommendations concerning discrimination was indicative of remaining gaps. All recommendations requiring legal changes had been rejected, in particular the longstanding demand by the Platform for comprehensive legislation on discrimination.

#### 4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

699. The President stated that based on the information provided out of 251 recommendations received, 160 enjoy the support of Switzerland, and 91 are noted.

700. The delegation noted that the third universal periodic review had been an opportunity to strengthen the debate on human rights at all political levels. The process of the third review had been inclusive, which had allowed in-depth discussions on the level of protection and the implementation human rights in the country. Switzerland was conscious that the adoption of the Working Group report on the universal periodic review was not the end of the process, which would continue with the implementation of accepted recommendations.

#### Republic of Korea

701. The review of the Republic of Korea was held on 8 November 2017 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by the Republic of Korea in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/KOR/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/KOR/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/KOR/3).

702. At its 39th meeting, on 15 March 2018, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of the Republic of Korea (see section C below).

703. The outcome of the review of the Republic comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/37/11), the views of the Republic of Korea concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (*see also A/HRC/37/11/Add.1*).

#### 1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome

704. The head of the delegation, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea, Choi Kyong-Lim, noted with appreciation the valuable contribution of the Member States of the United Nations, including members of the troika as well as of other stakeholders in the universal periodic review of the Republic of Korea, which was held in November 2017. The delegation reiterated the Government's support to this mechanism and noted that it has provided the international community with an important opportunity to look into human rights situation of each Member State with the aim of addressing the identified challenges and making improvements in the areas of concern. The mechanism has offered an opportunity for the Republic of Korea to renew its strong commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.

705. During the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, the Government had supported 85 recommendations out of total 218 recommendations 95 Member States, and noted 3 recommendations. After the Working Group, the Government held a public hearing with the participation of civil society representatives to exchange opinions over the remaining 130 recommendations. Subsequently, the Government consulted with the relevant ministries. After thorough and careful deliberation, the Government has decided to support additional 36 recommendations and to note 94 recommendations. The Government has submitted its

final position on those 130 remaining recommendations in a written form in February for wider distribution.

706. The delegation provided the Human Rights Council with further clarifications concerning to its position on several recommendations. The Government supported a large number of recommendations falling into two groups: equality and non-discrimination, and cooperation with the international human rights norms and mechanisms. In particular, the Government has been planning to accede to the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, after an in-depth discussions and legislative efforts made to incorporate the Convention into the domestic legislation. The Government has been taking efforts to prohibit discrimination against and protect the rights of non-citizens.

707. The delegation stated that some recommendations had not enjoyed the support of the Government as they required further examination or due to some existing challenges that the country has been facing. In addition to a number of legislative measures undertaken to prohibit discrimination, the Government would seek further examination and social consensus on the enactment of a comprehensive anti-discrimination law. Regarding the recommendations on conscientious objection to military service and the right to an alternative service, the delegation highlighted a need for due consideration to unique security circumstances of the Korean Peninsula and the importance of ensuring equality in carrying the obligation of mandatory military service. The Government would conform to the forthcoming decision of the Constitutional Court related to a case of penalising conscientious objection to military service.

708. The issue of the abolition of the death penalty has also required a careful approach as it has concerned the principles of criminal law. The Government would decide upon the issue of the abolition of the death penalty after carefully studying the public opinion and legal aspects of the death penalty in relation to the criminal policy.

709. The delegation noted with appreciation other valuable recommendations, calling to promote participation of women in political area, prevent sexual harassment, and improves social conditions for migrant workers and their children and to consider human rights-based approach in the development projects. The Government would continue to seek ways to strengthen and improve the relevant domestic laws, institutions and procedures in these areas.

710. Following the economic growth and achievements in democratic governance in a relatively short period, the Republic of Korea has made efforts to contribute to the protection and promotion of the human rights at the national level as well as at the international level. The new administration of the Republic of Korea has also placed a high importance to the protection of human rights. So-called “candlelight revolution” of 2017 led to a new era of democracy in the Republic of Korea. Having in mind all those achievements, the delegation expressed the willingness of the Government to share their experience with other Member States.

711. The Government has pledged to ensure human rights-based policies. The delegation informed the Human Rights Council about the Government’s plan to enhance the status of the National Human Rights Commission by strengthening further its independence and encouraging ministries to implement recommendations from the Commission.

712. The Government has been developing the third national action plan for the promotion and protection of human rights through extensive consultations with civil society.

713. The delegation expressed its belief that the recommendations received during its third review would assist in ensuring the respect for the fundamental rights and human dignity. The Government would take into account concerns and expectations expressed by the United Nations Member States regarding human rights situations in the Republic of Korea.

## 2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome

714. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of the Republic of Korea, 12 delegations made statements.

715. Egypt noted that five recommendations put forward by Egypt to combat hate speech, protect foreigners from discrimination, develop a plan to implement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. It hoped that the Republic of Korea would have a positive position on those recommendations and thus, would implement them.

716. Honduras noted with satisfaction that the Government supported a recommendation put forward by Honduras, particularly those calling for the criminalization of marital rape and the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. It expressed hope that the Republic of Korea would reconsider its position on recommendations concerning the abolition of the death penalty and the adoption of a comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, including on the grounds of race, sexual orientation and gender identity.

717. The Islamic Republic of Iran remained concerned over several human rights issues in the country. It encouraged the Government to carry out a constructive and cooperative engagement with the Committee on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities. It noted that two out of three recommendations put forward by the Islamic Republic of Iran were supported by the Republic of Korea, and hoped that they would be implemented.

718. Iraq thanked the Republic of Korea for its participation in the review process and information provided on the human rights situation in the country. It noted with appreciation that the Government supported the majority of recommendations from the universal periodic review, including three recommendation put forward by Iraq.

719. The Lao People's Democratic Republic commended the Government for its active participation in the work of the Human Rights Council, including the universal periodic review process and for its engagement with the treaty bodies. It welcomed the progress made by the Republic of Korea in promoting rights of vulnerable groups including women and children, strengthening the rights to health, education and to freedom of expression.

720. The Philippines noted the commitment of the Government to take into account the concerns and expectations of the Member States regarding the human rights situation, as well as consider the ratification of the international treaties to which it has not acceded yet.

721. The Republic of Moldova noted the efforts of the Government to protect and promote human rights at national and international levels. It noted that the Government supported two recommendations put forward by the Republic of Moldova on the consolidation of the National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles and on the strengthening the Commission's mandate to prevent torture.

722. The Russian Federation expressed its hope that the Republic of Korea would report on the elimination of hate speech and intolerance on the grounds of race and ethnicity in the media and in the Internet in its next periodic review. It expected that the Government would establish an effective mechanism for the identification of victims of the trafficking in human beings.

723. Sierra Leone commended the Government for its efforts to increase official development assistance and for establishing a new immigration policy aimed at protecting the rights and social integration of foreigners. It noted that the Government supported 121 recommendations, including those put forward by Sierra Leone to address hate speech, prevent domestic and gender-based violence and to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Sierra Leone encouraged the

Republic of Korea to consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

724. Sri Lanka noted that the Government supported 121 recommendations out of 218 recommendations, including two recommendations put forward by Sri Lanka to implement a plan on preventing domestic violence and share its best practice in supporting mine victims. It noted the efforts of the Government to incorporate the recommendations from the universal periodic review into its policies and the proactive role of the Republic of Korea in promoting democratic values and protecting human rights globally.

725. The Sudan commended the Republic of Korea for acceding many international human rights instruments, accepting the right to individual complaints under four treaties and extending a standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council. It noted that the Government has accepted the majority of the recommendations, including the two recommendations put forwarded by the Sudan.

726. Albania noted the Government's intention to strengthen its national mechanism on reporting and follow up of the recommendations from the international human rights bodies, including the universal periodic review, as well as the role of an advisory group on human rights policies. It noted with satisfaction that the Government had supported the majority of the recommendations put forward during the review. Albania expected that the Government would carefully consider the recommendations made by Albania related to the article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the adoption of a comprehensive anti-discrimination law.

### **3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders**

727. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of the Republic of Korea, 10 other stakeholders made statements.

728. The National Human Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea expressed its belief that the process of the universal periodic review provided an opportunity to improve further the human rights situation. The Commission welcomed that the Government had supported 121 recommendations out of 218 recommendations received during the review. However, it was concerned that the remaining recommendations were noted. The Commission considered that the Government should actively pursue recommendations calling for the ratification of international human rights treaties that has not been yet ratified, the adoption of a comprehensive anti-discrimination law and measures to address hate speech, and the decriminalisation of conscientious objections to military service.

729. The International Fellowship of Reconciliation noted with regret that the Government felt unable to support recommendations nos 132.94–132.105, concerning conscientious objection to military service. However, it noted with appreciation the more positive tone of the Government's response than to similar recommendations in the previous cycle, and the willingness of the Government to conform to the forthcoming decision of the Constitutional Court on this subject. The International Fellowship of Reconciliation noted that the public opinion had demonstrated more supportive position towards conscientious objection to bearing arms based on opinion polls. It also noted a growing trend in Courts' unwillingness to imprison conscientious objectors. It expressed hope that the Government would accept its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to recognise the right of conscientious objection to military service by the time of the mid-term review.

730. The Center for Global Nonkilling regretted that the Government noted the recommendations to provide conscientious objectors to military service with an alternative civilian services. It considered that the executive and the legislative branches did not need to wait for a constitutional ruling to grant them a status and an alternative service, and that the freedom of conscience should never be impeded by strategic or geopolitical considerations. The Center for Global Nonkilling stated that the rights to life and equality before the law



should start with inclusive birth registration, which could be only guaranteed by the country of birth. Therefore, it hoped that the Government would change its policy in this regard.

731. The International Lesbian and Gay Association noted with concern that the Government did not support any of the twenty two recommendations concerning sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics. It noted that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons faced marginalisation and discrimination. The International Lesbian and Gay Association called on the Government to commit to incremental progress in the protection of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and expressed its readiness to work with the Government in this area.

732. The Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development indicated that the Government noted recommendations to abolish the death penalty and the National Security Law, adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law, grant civilian alternative service to conscientious objectors and to improve the human rights of migrant workers and their families, children of refugees and asylum-seekers. It welcomed the Government's support for recommendations on freedom of expression, assembly and of peaceful association and the Government's commitment to protect human rights defenders and to investigate excessive use of force against them and against trade union representatives. The Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development looked forward to the adoption of a comprehensive strategy to prevent gender-based violence.

733. The Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco, jointly with the International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development noted with regret that the Government merely took note of the recommendations concerning the establishment of a universal birth registration system for all children. They noted with concern that the children of migrant parents were deprived of their right to birth registration. They welcomed the acceptance of recommendation 130.75 by the Government, as corporal punishment had been still common in educational settings and in the home. The organisations called on the Government to establish a universal birth registration system to ensure that all children have access to registration immediately after their birth, regardless of the status of their parents, and effectively implement recommendation no 130.75 to prohibit, by law and in practice, corporal punishment of children in all settings.

734. Amnesty International welcomed the Government's acceptance of recommendations to improve policing practices to better guarantee the right to freedom of peaceful assembly. It encouraged the National Police Agency to implement reforms in line with international standards. It noted that the Government did not support recommendations to provide conscientious objectors with alternative civilian service and to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to commute all death sentences to terms of imprisonment and accelerate full abolition of the death penalty. It also noted with regret that the Government had not supported many recommendations, calling for the protection of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender and intersex persons.

735. Human Rights Watch noted that the outcome of the universal periodic review of the Republic of Korea reflected recommendations to protect freedom of expression and assembly and the rights of vulnerable workers, women, foreigners, children, older persons and persons with disabilities. It urged the Government to implement the supported recommendations. It noted with concern that the Government noted 97 recommendations, which included recommendations to abolish the death penalty and the national security law, decriminalise defamation and abortion, protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and to repeal article 92-6 of the Military Criminal Code. Human Rights Watch was concerned that a plan on gender equality and national standards on sex education did not include sexual minorities or instruction on methods of contraception.

736. CIVICUS- World Alliance for Citizens Participation noted with regret that the Government did not support several recommendations to promote and protect the rights essential to civic space, particularly amending the National Security Law to ensure it would

not be used arbitrarily to harass and restrict the freedom of expression. It reported that the authorities had applied restrictive legislation, including the National Security Law to silence dissenting voices and critics of the Government. CIVICUS urged the Government to consult with civil society in the implementation of the recommendations from the universal periodic review in order to ensure that the National Security Law is in line with best practices and international standards in the area of freedom of expression.

737. The United Nations Watch noted that the Republic of Korea provided humanitarian protection and support to over 30 thousands defectors who fled the neighbouring country. It noted that some of them provided testimonies in the side event of the Human Rights Council, describing various human rights violations they had faced before fleeing to the Republic of Korea.

#### 4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

738. The President stated that based on the information provided out of 218 recommendations received, 121 recommendations enjoyed the support of the Republic of Korea and 97 recommendations were noted.

739. The delegation thanked all delegates and civil society organizations for their constructive comments and encouragements. The expressed concerns and advices offered in the interactive dialogue of the universal periodic review would assist the Government in achieving higher standards in those areas of human rights.

740. The Republic of Korea went through a broad consultation process with relevant stakeholders from the preparation of the national report to the consideration of its position on the recommendations. This process helped the Government to examine the current human rights situation and identify main directions for further improvements.

741. In conclusion, the delegation reassured the Human Rights Council that the Republic of Korea would remain firmly supportive to the universal periodic review mechanism and to the joint efforts of the international community in the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide. It expressed its gratitude to the members of the troika and the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights for their hard work.

#### Benin

742. The review of Benin was held on 10 November 2017 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Benin in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/BEN/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/BEN/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/BEN/3).

743. At its 40th meeting, on 19 March 2017, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Benin (see section C below).

744. The outcome of the review of Benin comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/37/10), the views of Benin concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (*see also A/HRC/37/10/Add.1*).

**1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome**

745. The head of the delegation, Ambassador, Representative of Benin in Geneva, Eloi Laourou, expressed Benin's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and public freedoms, which has enabled the country to build an environment that promotes peace, dialogue, tolerance, good economic and social governance and respect for women's rights, including gender equality, children and vulnerable people.

746. On the occasion of the presentation of the third universal periodic review national report of Benin, 198 recommendations were made by 82 delegations, of which 7 were noted and 191 were accepted.

747. The head of the Beninese delegation stressed that since then, the country has continued its efforts to meet the accepted recommendations and to promote and protect human rights in various fields. As an illustration, the Ambassador referred to the following five actions.

748. First, the Council of Ministers has adopted Decree No. 2018-043 of 15 February 2018 with a view to commute the death sentence of 14 persons for sentences to life imprisonment, thus becoming Benin an abolitionist country, within full right.

749. Second, Benin has ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

750. Third, the members of the Board of Directors and the Director General of the Prison Agency, in charge of prison management, have been appointed.

751. Fourth, anti-corruption and accountability initiatives are being firmly pursued, efforts and commitments that have been valued by Transparency International in its 2017 Report on the Corruption Perception Index in the World, according to which, between 2016 and 2017, Benin has gained ten points in the ranking for its achievements in this field.

752. Fifth, efforts are continuing to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the year 2030, particularly in the areas of improving living and health conditions, sanitation, nutrition, education, environmental protection and access to water and energy with far-reaching reforms.

753. The head of the delegation requested the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Benin's technical and financial partners for the implementation of actions and initiatives in the following areas:

- (a) Development of a National Action Plan on Human Rights.
- (b) Support for reforms of the prison system through the construction and equipment of new prisons, the acquisition of cell vans for the transportation of detainees, the installation of solar energy and the drilling of water supplies.
- (c) Capacity building through reporting, prevention and care of victims of human trafficking and protection of children and women.
- (d) Development of a database on human rights.
- (e) Creation of a central registry of civil status.
- (f) Extension of the Special Program "Children's Friendly Court".
- (g) Establishment of the Insurance for the Strengthening of Human Capacities.
- (h) Human rights education and training.

754. The Ambassador thanked the Human Rights Council for the attention and interest given to Benin's efforts in the field of human rights and public freedoms. He expressed Benin's interest in benefiting from the experiences and good practices of other Members of the Human Rights Council and observer States.

**2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

755. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Benin, 13 delegations made statements. The statements of the delegations that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints<sup>53</sup> are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council, if uploaded.

756. Sierra Leone commended Benin's recent human rights strategies, particularly the adopted 2017 Act on the rights of persons with disabilities and measures to promote compulsory education. It welcomed efforts to tackle child labour through the draft Criminal Code. Sierra Leone applauded Benin's efforts aimed at implementing all accepted recommendations.

757. South Africa appreciated Benin's continued work on human rights for all. It welcomed the adoption of a Children's Code, of the national child protection policy and of the Information and Communication Code.

758. The Sudan thanked Benin's commitment towards human rights by responding positively to recommendations, welcoming in particular the acceptance of recommendations on birth registration and birth certificates.

759. Togo saluted the ratification of the Convention on Intercountry Adoption and the adoption of a national policy on child protection. It applauded the acceptance of the majority of the 198 recommendations. Togo invited the international community to provide technical support in relevant areas identified by Benin.

760. Tunisia applauded the acceptance of a large part of recommendations, showing Benin's commitment towards human rights. It welcomed the cooperation with the Human Rights Council mechanisms and the strengthening of national laws in line with international commitments. It saluted the creation of an independent National Human Rights Commission.

761. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) commended legal and institutional developments while noted constraints for implementing recommendations related to the lack of resources and illiteracy. It pointed at harmful cultural practices hindering the respect of some rights. UNFPA committed to provide support on accepted recommendations dealing with the fight against discrimination and violence against women, and with sexual and reproductive health and rights.

762. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela appreciated Benin's efforts to implement second cycle-accepted recommendations. It applauded the human rights related legal progress through the adoption of laws in the areas of labour and children's rights. It welcomed the acceptance of the majority of recommendations and Benin's commitment towards human rights.

763. Algeria welcomed efforts to strengthen the legal framework on children's rights, communication and information, elections and the judiciary. It noted the ratification of some international instruments and the creation of institutions to promote human rights, including women's rights, and to fight corruption. It applauded the acceptance of recommendations on combating women discrimination and ensuring access to water and sanitation.

764. Angola congratulated Benin's commitment to human rights through cooperation with human rights international mechanisms and the ratification of various international instruments. It praised the acceptance of a recommendation to combat child labour.

765. Burundi congratulated the creation of an institution to combat corruption, a NHRI and a fund to promote youth employment. It praised the adopted Children's Code, the national child protection policy and measures to protect women's rights. It saluted adopted policies to

---

<sup>53</sup><https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/34thSession/Pages/default.aspx>

promote economic, social and cultural rights, in particular access to quality education. Burundi applauded Benin's cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.

766. China appreciated Benin's commitment to human rights and its engagement with the universal periodic review. It welcomed efforts to promote sustainable socio-economic development and to improve the living conditions of its people, including measures on food security and access to medical care.

767. The Congo congratulated Benin for having accepted a large number of recommendations, including those related to fighting against lynching and to improving living conditions of vulnerable groups. It appreciated its cooperation with human rights mechanisms.

768. Cuba highlighted Benin's commitment with the universal periodic review by having accepted the majority of recommendations, including recommendations on improving living conditions of its people and on human rights training. Their implementation will improve human rights in the country.

### 3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

769. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Benin, 7 stakeholders made statements.

770. Organisation Mondiale contre la Torture (OMCT), Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance (BICE), Enfants Solidaires d'Afrique et du Monde (ESAM), Franciscans International (FI)-Franciscans Bénin and Comité de Liaison des Organisations Sociales de Défense des Droits de l'Enfant du Bénin (CLOSE) were concerned at the lack of measures to implement the Children's Code and about juvenile justice conditions. They urged Benin to improve detention conditions of juveniles, promote the use of alternative measures to imprisonment and adopt a law criminalizing torture.

771. International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development (VIDES-International), Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice (IIMA), Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance (BICE) and Franciscans International (FI)-Franciscans Bénin urged to adopt implementing rules of the Children's Code and the new Criminal Code, and to continue raising awareness on the matter of "sorcerer's" children. They referred to the unequal access of boys and girls to education. They recommended establishing a national reporting and follow up mechanism.

772. Action Canada for Population and Development, Sexual Rights Initiative, Association de Femme pour une Relève Orientée (AFRO-BENIN) and Coalition des Lesbiennes Africaines stressed the high levels of violence and discrimination against women and LGBTIQ and called on Benin to address protection and redress gaps and legally recognize organizations working on sexual rights.

773. Franciscans International (FI)-Franciscans Bénin, Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance (BICE) and Changement Social Bénin welcomed the country's engagement towards children's rights but regretted that the recommendation aimed at preventing infanticide of "sorcerer's" children was only noted. They recommended accelerating the adoption of the draft Criminal Code and implementing the Children's Code.

774. Amnesty International welcomed the establishment of the Human Rights Commission and the decision to commute the sentence of 14 men on death row at Akpro-Misséréké prison. It was concerned by the refusal of recommendations aimed at combatting arbitrary detentions, extrajudicial killings, disproportional use of force, suspension of media and discrimination against women and "sorcerer's" children. It urged Benin to guarantee freedom of expression and to protect journalists and human rights defenders.

775. Rencontre Africaine pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (RADDHO) and Changement Social Bénin welcomed positive legal and institutional measures protecting

children and women, fighting corruption and strengthening the judiciary. They were concerned about shrinking space for civil society, threats against the right to strike, prison overcrowding, systematic use of pre-trial detention, the absence of information about socio-economic rights, and crimes against “sorcerer’s” children, urging Benin to take measures in that regard.

776. Bureau International Catholique de l’Enfance (BICE), Enfants Solidaires d’Afrique et du Monde (ESAM), Franciscans International (FI)-Franciscans Bénin, Comité de Liaison des Organisations Sociales de Défense des Droits de l’Enfant du Bénin (CLOSE), Organisation Mondiale contre la Torture (OMCT), Mouvement International d’Apostolat des Milieux Sociaux Indépendants (MIAMSI), and Confédération Internationale de la Société de Saint Vincent de Paul and Compagnie des Filles de la Charité de Saint Vincent de Paul regretted that Benin’s reply on the reasons for non-accepting a recommendation on “sorcerer’s” children ” referred only to the first part of the recommendation. They urged to implement existing regulations protecting children. They also urged to develop an assessment of the recommendations not yet fully implemented, establish an integrated action plan, and put in place an inter-ministerial committee with civil society participation and an accessible database for following up the recommendations.

#### 4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

777. The Ambassador thanked the President of the Human Rights Council, the troika, the delegations and the team of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for organizing this universal periodic review dialogue, considered as a plural exchange between governments, international organizations, civil society and other stakeholders to improve the effective protection of human rights and public freedoms. The acceptance of 191 recommendations out of 198 shows Benin’s attention to human rights and public freedoms as well as to economic and social governance.

778. Benin, after its universal periodic review in November 2017, has resumed the task of continuing steps towards the promotion and protection of human rights with results obtained on certain recommendations. The country will resolutely pursue these efforts and commitments.

779. The delegate stressed that recommendations that were not accepted were not rejected, but rather noted. He emphasized that the government will work towards gradual administrative and institutional activities and reforms to implement these measures.

780. Some recommendations, although noted, are problematic given the sociological environment of Benin.

781. In the case of “sorcerer’s” children, the Ambassador pointed out that these are isolated practices of rural communities and that the State does not support them. Nevertheless, the State does not yet have all the necessary information to better supervise the actions in order to fight and repress these practices. The delegate reassured that children are not abused in Benin, and that they are protected and considered as the “father of man”. The government will continue to engage in advocacy and prevention activities with civil society, public institutions, religious institutions and local authorities. Registered cases are also sanctioned.

782. On the rights to food, education and health, the head of the delegation informed that the government has embarked on reform programs under the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals with the support of the international community.

#### Pakistan

783. The review of Pakistan was held on 13 November 2017 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Pakistan in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/PAK/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/PAK/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/PAK/3).

784. At its 41st meeting, on 19 March 2018, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Pakistan (see section C below).

785. The outcome of the review of Pakistan comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/37/13), the views of Pakistan concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (*see also A/HRC/37/13/Add.1*).

**1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome**

786. The head of the delegation, Permanent Representative of Pakistan, Farukh Amil, stated that, out of a total of 289 recommendations that Pakistan had received, 168 enjoyed its support. Most of them were either being implemented or were in the preparation phase of implementation. 117 recommendations that were noted had not been rejected as such, but due process of consultations on them had not yet completed. Pakistan would continue deliberations on them and might eventually implement quite a few of them. The remaining four recommendations had been rejected for being factually incorrect and politically motivated.

**2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

787. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Pakistan, 13 delegations made statements. The statements of the delegations that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints<sup>54</sup> are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council, if uploaded.

788. Ghana commended the commitment by Pakistan to human rights, despite constant threats to the country's national security and social fabric from terrorists and violent extremists. It welcomed the progress made in implementing the recommendations from the second cycle. It urged Pakistan to continue with ongoing efforts to address religious intolerance and hate speech.

789. Greece remained concerned by the use of the death penalty and the reports of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances. It urged Pakistan to reinstate a moratorium on the use of the death penalty and protect freedom of speech by taking measures against the intimidation of journalists and ensuring that the perpetrators of violence were brought to justice.

790. Honduras hoped that Pakistan would consider the accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and examine the possibility of acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families so as to strengthen the legal order for the protection of human rights.

791. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended the legal and institutional changes, such as the establishment of the Ministry of Human Rights, and encouraged Pakistan to promote the

<sup>54</sup><https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/34thSession/Pages/default.aspx>

economic and social rights of its people and accelerate the efforts towards the full operationalization of the National Commission for Human Rights.

792. Iraq thanked Pakistan for updating the human rights situation in the country and demonstrating the spirit of cooperation and transparency during the third cycle review. It thanked Pakistan for accepting the two recommendations presented by Iraq.

793. The Philippines appreciated the acceptance of its recommendations to strengthen national and provincial commissions on the statues of women. It acknowledged the establishment of the Ministry of Human Rights, provincial human rights departments, and human rights committees, and the launch of a national Action Plan for Human Rights.

794. China welcomed continuous strengthening of national human rights mechanism by Pakistan. It hoped that Pakistan would continue to reduce poverty, improve social, economic and sustainable development, and help low income families. It supported Pakistan's human rights development path which fit to their national circumstances.

795. Saudi Arabia stated that it had paid close attention to positions of Pakistan on the recommendations and appreciated the acceptance of 168 of them. It welcomed the laudable concerted efforts of Pakistan to promote human rights at all levels and willingness to continue to cooperate with the human rights mechanisms.

796. Sierra Leone noted the efforts to improve access to quality health services and education through the establishment of the National Health Vision. It was disappointed that none of its three recommendations enjoyed the support. It encouraged considering the accession to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and comprehensively tackling cross-border trafficking and forced marriage.

797. Sri Lanka welcomed the acceptance of its recommendations on the National Action Plan for Human Rights, national human rights policy framework, and maternal and neonatal health service. It encouraged Pakistan to expedite measures to promote and protect human rights, including through the engagement with treaty bodies and strengthening national and provincial human rights mechanisms.

798. The Sudan appreciated the adoption of the Climate Change Act of 2017 and the establishment of the National Commission on Human Rights. It was pleased with the acceptance of the majority of recommendations, including two from the Sudan, namely on the national action plan on human rights and mainstreaming human rights in development planning.

799. Tunisia thanked Pakistan for accepting the majority of the recommendations. It welcomed the measures taken to comprehensively consolidate the human rights system and development plans aimed at achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, promoting social and economic rights of its people.

800. The United Nations Population Fund pledged its support towards: harmonization of policies and programmes with human rights standards across the national and sub-national levels, particularly in the area of family planning; strengthening the capacity of the National Commission on the Status of Women, especially in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Sindh provinces; and empowerment of young people through life-skills education and advocacy for their protection from harmful practices.

### **3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders**

801. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Pakistan, 10 other stakeholders made statements. The statements of the stakeholders that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints<sup>55</sup> are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council, if uploaded.

<sup>55</sup><https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/34thSession/Pages/default.aspx>



802. British Humanist Association indicated that Pakistan had repeatedly received recommendations to abolish its anti-blasphemy laws. The notion of ‘blasphemy’ had been criticised as inconsistent with normative human rights standards, as set out in the Rabat Plan of Action. It was used to justify violence against the non-religious, apostates, and religious minorities, who are subjected to arbitrary arrest and extra-judicial killing. It had become a tool by which the State silenced dissent, invoked narrow identity politics, and denied citizens their freedom of expression and freedom of religion or belief. In 2013, the Council of Islamic Ideology recommended against any softening of Pakistan’s anti-blasphemy laws. The Federal Shariat Court had also stated unequivocally that the death penalty was the only appropriate sentence for those convicted of blasphemy. It urged Pakistan to abolish its anti-blasphemy laws immediately and explicitly condemn all violence provoked by allegations of blasphemy or apostasy.

803. The European Centre for Law and Justice stated that persecution and discrimination against Christians and other minorities were commonplace and that the Government had failed to bring perpetrators to justice. Last December, gunmen and suicide bombers attacked a Methodist Church in Quetta. During the same month, a terrorist attacked a Christian neighbourhood in Chaman. Blasphemy laws were still a major concern. Just this month, over 800 Christian families fled their homes after a Muslim mob formed to attack them because a young Christian man was accused of posting blasphemous content on Facebook. Police torture was yet another threat. Last October, six policemen beat a Christian student to death over an argument with some Muslim classmates. In cases of police torture, justice was rarely served. It called on the United Nations to request that Pakistan protect Christians and other religious minorities and bring the perpetrators of violence to justice.

804. Article 19 stated that broadly defined offences in the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act and Pakistan Telecommunications Act were open to abuse. It remained concerned that journalists, activists and ordinary citizens were being tried by military courts, under the Anti-Terrorism Act. More than 20 journalists and media workers had been killed since Pakistan’s last universal periodic review, and many more had suffered serious attacks, including enforced disappearance, assault, acts of intimidation, and judicial harassment. Impunity for all such attacks remained pervasive. It regretted that Pakistan had only “noted” several recommendations to ensure the safety of journalists. A draft bill on the safety of journalists contained serious flaws. It asked whether Pakistan would include civil society organizations and the media in initiatives to legislate against attacks on journalists and measures to end impunity for those attacks. The refusal of Pakistan to contemplate amending or repealing blasphemy provisions was deeply regrettable.

805. Action Canada for Population and Development and Asia Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women expressed concern about the insufficient attention paid to the sexual and reproductive health needs of young people. Pakistan had one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world. Child, early and forced marriage operated as a means to control girls’ sexuality and reproductive capacity, and resulted in significant risks of unwanted and forced pregnancies. In Pakistan, where talking about sexuality and sexual health and reproductive rights was considered taboo, young people’s choices in this matter were restricted and their well-being jeopardized. 55 per cent of the population of Pakistan were under the age of 25. It was vital that Pakistan instituted awareness-raising programmes on sexual and reproductive health and rights information for young people and ensured the availability of accessible, affordable, acceptable and quality sexual and reproductive health and rights service for all persons, especially young people.

806. The International Federation for Human Rights Leagues indicated that Pakistan lacked the political will to address enforced disappearances, the persecution of religious minorities, the use of the death penalty, and extrajudicial killings. The blanket refusal by Pakistan to commit to end the death penalty, including for juveniles and for offenses that did not meet the threshold of the ‘most serious crimes’, was disappointing. Freedom of expression continued to be silenced through the harassment, arbitrary detention, torture, and

enforced disappearance of voices critical of the Government or Islam. Pakistan did not accept any of the recommendations calling for the repeal or amendment of blasphemy laws. Pakistan failed to accept all recommendations to protect persons from violence and discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity. It urged Pakistan to immediately begin implementing the recommendations that had not been accepted but were consistent with Pakistan's obligations under human rights treaties to which Pakistan was a party.

807. Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches was concerned that, since the last universal periodic review, there had been ten registered cases of blasphemy involving one Muslim, eight Christians and one Hindu. Cases of blasphemy against minorities highlighted shocking police brutality and a biased judicial system. Lynching by mobs raised serious concerns about the misuse of the blasphemy laws. Pakistan received five recommendations to repeal and seven recommendations to review the blasphemy laws. It called upon Pakistan to: repeal all discriminatory legislation, namely blasphemy laws; establish bodies to examine the treatment by police of victims and their family members during the investigation of blasphemy cases; legislate against and punish any form of incitement of hate and violence, particularly when loud speakers were used to mobilize violent mobs; and take measures to reform the police and judiciary to ensure the protection and promotion of religious minorities.

808. Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development regretted that a recommendation to protect online freedom was merely noted. The Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act empowered telecommunication regulators to arbitrarily filter or censor 'objectionable content', which had restricted online expression for religious, sexual, or ethnic minorities. The law provided sweeping powers for the Telecommunication Authority without sufficient independent judicial oversight; and the sharing of information with foreign governments. Pakistan had accepted recommendations to investigate attacks on journalists and human rights defenders, however, noted recommendations to bring justice to these cases and to introduce legislation and implement concrete measures to protect them. The registration procedures of the new NGO policy restricted space for human rights defenders. It called on Pakistan to accept pending recommendations on protecting freedom of expression and human rights defenders and to develop a concrete and time-bound implementation plan in consultation with civil society.

809. Amnesty International stated the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances had more than 700 pending cases from Pakistan, and Pakistan's State Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances had received reports of hundreds more from across the country. Victims included bloggers, journalists, students, peace activists and human rights defenders. No one had ever been held accountable for an enforced disappearance. It welcomed Pakistan's acceptance of recommendations to make enforced disappearance a criminal offence, however, was disappointed by Pakistan's failure to accept several recommendations to accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. It was pleased with the acceptance of recommendations to protect journalists and the right to freedom of expression, however, was concerned that Pakistan had not accepted recommendations to bring the perpetrators of such threats and attacks to justice. It urged Pakistan to uphold the highest human rights standards to end impunity for violations.

810. The International Commission of Jurists regretted that Pakistan's blasphemy laws were frequently misused; discriminated against minority religions and sects; infringed upon the rights to freedom of expression and religion; and gave rise to serious fair trial concerns. In 2015, Pakistan empowered military courts to try people accused of terrorism-related offences. It had documented serious fair trials violations in the operation of military courts. Pakistan had failed to take steps to combat impunity for serious human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, and torture and other ill-treatment, and had not yet enacted legislation to recognize torture or enforced disappearance as a distinct autonomous offence. It urged Pakistan to reconsider, accept and implement

recommendations to: ensure that military courts had no jurisdiction over civilians, including for terrorism-related offences; repeal or amend all blasphemy laws; and ensure all perpetrators of violations – including enforced disappearance and extrajudicial killings – were brought to justice.

811. World Environment and Resources Council stated that Pakistan had failed to respond or implement plans on previous universal periodic review recommendations. This was particularly evident in regard to enforced disappearances and forced conversion of young Sindh Hindu girls. Enforced disappearances had greatly increased in Sindh. Forced conversion of Sindh Hindu girls continued to increase under the Government's patronage. This had left Hindu girls increasingly the targets of child marriage and forced conversion. Pakistan's recent development projects either failed to consult with the local populations or ignored the will of indigenous people. It recommend that Pakistan ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; hold accountable all parties responsible for forced conversions, including religious institutions; and consult with all affected indigenous populations regarding development projects. It suggested that Pakistan strengthen all the human rights institutions with the resources necessary to uphold its obligations.

#### **4. Concluding remarks of the State under review**

812. The President stated that, based on the information provided, out of 289 recommendations received, 168 enjoy the support of Pakistan, and 121 are noted.

813. Concerning accession to/ratification of some international human rights instruments, the delegation of Pakistan stated that, as party to seven core international human rights instruments, Pakistan was already fulfilling its obligations in a broad area of work of human rights. All other international instruments were being examined on their substance, alignment of national laws with each instrument, and financial implications for their effective implementation.

814. Pakistan continued to regularly report to the relevant treaty bodies on the implementation of these conventions. Since May 2016, Pakistan's periodic reports regarding Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights had been reviewed by the relevant bodies.

815. In presenting its national report last November, the Foreign Minister had identified a series of steps in establishing and consolidating national human rights institutions and their legislative frameworks. Pakistan accepted almost all of the 27 recommendations received to further enhance their capacity and effectiveness.

816. Many recommendations were made on improving the socio-economic conditions of its people. Pakistan had accepted most of these, particularly to mainstream human rights in development planning by including cross-cutting issues and promoting the right to development. It also accepted recommendations on SDGs.

817. Economic progress and anti-poverty measures, as part of the National Development Plan and Vision 2030, aimed at economic growth. They were also steps towards realization of economic, social and cultural rights. For many citizens below poverty line, these rights were being realized through, inter alia, expanding micro-credit scheme like Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and strengthening social safety nets in areas of health and education. Specific focus of these measures was protecting and promoting the rights of women and children. For children, these included: ending child labour, providing universal education, improving vaccination and primary health care for infants and neonates. Pakistan accepted several constructive recommendations on these measures which were complementary.

818. Pakistan's progress on human rights had taken place despite the challenges of terrorism and extremism. In the last ten years, its law enforcement officials, members of judiciary, journalists, religious minorities and civil society activists faced threats and intimidation from terrorists. As a result of the targeted actions by security forces backed up by national consensus across the political spectrum, Pakistan had turned the tide against terrorism and eliminated all terrorist hideouts in the country. Given the enormity of counterterrorism challenges, this extraordinary fact needed to be recognized.

819. A consequence of the success in counterterrorism was more effective realization of the rights of minorities. There was no organized official intolerance towards religious minorities. Minorities had the Constitutional right to freely profess their religion and visit their places of worship. A case in point was the flourishing Christian missionary schools system where even the most devout Muslims send their children for education. Pakistan had accepted most of the recommendations on minority rights. The delegation also informed that, in the recent elections for the Senate, a first Hindu lady senator had been elected.

820. Pakistan was formulating the National Interfaith Harmony Policy. Minorities had a greater voice in democracy, having ten seats reserved in the National Assembly, four in the Senate and 23 in the Provincial Assemblies. 11 August was celebrated as Minorities Day. Five per cent job quota for minorities in all federal services was ensured. Interfaith Harmony Committees had been established by the Provincial Governments. Deliberations were underway on Minorities Protection Bill to protect the Personal Laws of Minorities, including Hindu, Sikh, Parsi and Bahai's Marriage Acts. The recent Hindu marriage bill 2017 was recognition of the community's right to regulate their marriages in their own exclusive way. The Christian marriage bill was also on the anvil.

821. As administrative and legislative measures against hate speech, Pakistan had taken steps to prevent the misuse or abuse of the blasphemy law by strengthening the safeguards in place. The Penal Code provided punishment for false charges and false evidence to deter wrongful allegations. Only the senior police officers were authorized to register a first information report (FIR) in case of blasphemy issue, so that misleading / false complaints could be countered at very initial stage.

822. Pakistan had imposed a voluntary moratorium on death penalty for many years, however, in the wake of Peshawar School attack of December 2014, public pressure pushed the Parliament to lift this moratorium. This unanimous Parliamentary decision was the democratic voice of the people. Death penalty was imposed only in heinous crimes, in line with the Constitution and international norms.

823. Pakistan accepted 34 out of 39 recommendations on women's rights. Some of them were made on the need of new or amended legislations. Work in this regard was being led by the women parliamentarians, accounting for nearly 25 per cent of all parliament members. The 2017 Election Act gave the Election Commission powers to declare polls void in a constituency if female voter turnout was less than ten per cent. The Law also provided that political parties gave at least five per cent tickets to women for general seats, while the indirectly elected quota for women in the National Assembly (60 seats) and Senate (17 seats) would continue.

824. Pakistan received many recommendations to eliminate violence against women, including domestic violence. In this regard, two main types of laws had been enacted: firstly, prescribing penalties for anti-women practices; and secondly, focusing on empowering women and vulnerable groups. Therefore, Pakistan had both bills such as those against rape or acid crime and legislations providing social support such as BISP or protection against harassment at the workplace. Furthermore, Pakistan's fifth periodic report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Form of Discrimination against Women was being submitted.

825. Pakistan accepted recommendations to uplift its transgender community. They were able to secure the governmental recognition of their separate status, and as a result, special

passports and identity documents were issued to transgender persons to enable their mainstreaming into the society.

826. Concerning freedom of expression, the delegation informed that the “right to information” was guaranteed by the Constitution as a fundamental right.

827. Pakistan accepted many recommendations on the protection of journalists. Any attack on journalists or human rights defenders received immediate media coverage and was taken up *suomoto* by the superior judiciary. This created deterrence for any coercive measures against journalists. High-powered commissions were set up to investigate into allegations of intimidation and harassment of journalists. A Journalist Welfare and Protection Bill being enacted by the Government would consolidate gains in this field.

## **Zambia**

828. The review of Zambia was held on 13 November 2017 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Zambia in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/ZAM/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/ZAM/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/ZAM/3).

829. At its 42nd meeting, on 19 March 2018, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Zambia (see section C below).

830. The outcome of the review of Zambia comprises of the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/37/14), the views of Zambia concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (*see also A/HRC/37/14/Add.1*).

### **1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome**

831. The head of the delegation of Zambia, Minister Counsellor Chargé d'affaires a.i, Deputy Permanent Representative, Margaret Mary Lungu Kaemba, stated that the universal periodic review mechanism provided an opportunity for all Member States to provide an account of the actions they had taken to improve the human rights situation in their respective countries and to highlight the challenges that needed to be overcome in order to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights.

832. Since the review in November 2017, the Government has examined all of the recommendations that had been received and revisited some of the positions that had been taken on some of those recommendations. Consultations on the recommendations were held with all relevant stakeholders.

833. In relation to the two recommendations on which positions had not been taken, the delegation stated that Zambia supported recommendation 130.1 and noted recommendation 130.2. Furthermore, 92 recommendations which were identified as recommendations 131.1-131.4, recommendations 131.11-131.53, recommendation 131.57, recommendations 131.61-131.92, recommendations 131.99-131.102, and recommendations 131.104-131.111, which had been previously noted, have since been supported. Additionally, recommendation

131.10, which had been previously noted, was now supported in part, with that part of the recommendation relating to the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as the three Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child being supported and the part relating to the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, being noted. In light of the aforementioned changes, 183 recommendations now enjoyed the support of Zambia. One recommendation was partly supported and 19 recommendations were noted.

834. Those recommendations that enjoyed the support of Zambia will form the basis for the preparation of an action plan which will be used to guide the implementation process, prior to the fourth cycle review. The action plan, once completed, will complement the implementation of the Seventh National Development Plan (2017-2021) and will also contribute to the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 16. Civil Society were encouraged to complement the Government's efforts in implementing the action plan, once developed.

835. The delegation stated that the process of establishing a permanent mechanism to monitor the implement recommendations from all human rights mechanisms has commenced.

836. The death penalty was enshrined in the Constitution and could only be abolished through a referendum. It recalled that when the relevant proposed amendments, within the scope of an amended bill of rights, was subjected to a referendum, the required threshold was not met. Consequently, the proposed amendments to the Constitution could not be adopted. However, despite the retention of the death penalty in its statute books, Zambia was a 'de facto abolitionist state.' The last executions were carried out in 1997. Since then, successive Presidents have been reluctant to authorize any executions and have been commuting them to life imprisonment. Furthermore, in October 2016, the Cabinet passed a resolution to support the United Nations resolution to establish a global moratorium on the death penalty.

837. The delegation stated that Zambia remained resolute on enhancing human rights for the well-being of all persons without distinction as to their race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

838. Zambia remained determined to continue addressing the outstanding challenges that may inhibit the fulfilment of human rights, under the Seventh National Development Plan and appealed for support in that regard. This support will ensure the promotion and protection of human rights.

839. Zambia appreciated all of the recommendations that that had been received at its review and remained committed to the universal periodic review process.

## **2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

840. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Zambia, 13 delegations made statements. The statements of those delegations who were unable to deliver them due to time constraints are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council, provided they had been uploaded by the concerned delegation.<sup>56</sup>

841. Algeria welcomed the efforts taken to promote and protect human rights including through the integration of many international standards into the domestic legal framework. It also welcomed measures taken to combat corruption, to develop the judicial system, to combat trafficking in persons and to protect the environment. It noted that Zambia had supported 183 recommendations including the two recommendations made by Algeria.

<sup>56</sup><https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/34thSession/Pages/default.aspx>

842. Angola thanked Zambia for the supplementary information provided. It noted that Zambia had supported a substantial number of recommendations, including those made by Angola. It welcomed Zambia's cooperation with United Nations' bodies.

843. Burundi congratulated Zambia on the acceptance of a large number of recommendations and expressed delight with the establishment of mechanisms to combat corruption. It welcomed the legislative and institutional measures adopted by Zambia to combat slavery and trafficking in persons. It noted the adoption of the national policies for children and gender equality, and the different measures adopted to protect children against exploitation including child labour. It also noted the measures implemented to protect the environment and the priority given to the management of the natural resources.

844. China appreciated the constructive participation of Zambia in the universal periodic review mechanism. It thanked Zambia for accepting the recommendations made by China and expressed the hope that the Government will continue to promote, sustainable social and economic development and raise the living standards to build a solid foundation for the fulfilment of all human rights. China encouraged Zambia to continue to develop medical and health programmes which should include strengthening the treatment of HIV and AIDS.

845. The Congo noted with satisfaction Zambia's presentation of its report and the supplementary information provided. It welcomed the acceptance by Zambia of the majority of the recommendations it had received. The implementation of those recommendations, in addition to those efforts already undertaken will result in a consolidation of the rule of law. The Congo welcomed Zambia's cooperation with the human rights mechanisms and encouraged Zambia to continue with this cooperation.

846. Cuba commended Zambia for reviewing all of the recommendations it had received. As a display of Zambia's commitment to the universal periodic review mechanism, Zambia not only considered the two recommendations it had not taken a position on at the review, but went further and reviewed all noted recommendations and supported many of them. Cuba expressed the confidence that the implementation of the recommendations will be undertaken with similar commitment.

847. Egypt appreciated the active efforts to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights in various areas. It noted the adoption of an amended Constitution in 2106 which provided for the strengthening of the national human rights institution as well as the establishment of key institutions to implement human rights obligations. Egypt also noted laws adopted in relation to the rights of persons with disabilities, gender equality and the rights of refugees. It was pleased that Zambia had accepted the recommendations it had made. It expressed the hope that Zambia's efforts to implement the recommendations will be successful.

848. Ethiopia commended Zambia for identifying priority areas in the promotion and protection of human rights. It thanked Zambia for supporting recommendations relating to the combating of human trafficking and increasing birth registration. Ethiopia encouraged Zambia to continue its constructive engagement with the Human Rights Council.

849. Honduras commended Zambia for the transparent, cooperative and constructive spirit in which it conducted itself during the review. It noted Zambia's commitment to the protection of the rights of children. Honduras was pleased with the adoption of a comprehensive policy to effectively combat gender-based violence. It expressed the hope that Zambia will reconsider its position on the death penalty, consider ratifying ICRMW and adopt legislation prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

850. Kenya thanked Zambia for its constructive engagement with the universal periodic review mechanism. It commended Zambia for supporting many recommendations including the three recommendations made by Kenya. Kenya called on the international community to support Zambia in implementing supported recommendations.

851. Lesotho commended Zambia for its positive engagement throughout the universal periodic review process and applauded Zambia for supporting most of the recommendations received. It noted the measures taken since the previous review including the amendment of the Constitution and the enactment of a number of pieces of legislation. It called for continued support from development partners and the international community.

852. Libya thanked Zambia for its active participation in the universal periodic review process and acknowledged its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. Libya welcomed the progress that had been made in implementing universal periodic review recommendations through efforts for the advancement of women.

853. Madagascar noted with satisfaction the number of recommendations that had been accepted by Zambia. It welcomed efforts to guarantee the rule of law and to protect human rights, particular those relating to the rights of women. Madagascar urged Zambia to continue with its efforts.

### **3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders**

854. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Zambia, 9 other stakeholders made statements.

855. The Human Rights Commission (by video message) expressed the hope that the Government's commitment to establish a universal periodic review implementation mechanism will enhance the progressive realisation of human rights. The Commission expected the Government to ratify Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, as the Government as accepted a moratorium on the execution of death sentences. It was optimistic that the Government will continue the dialogue on the expansion of the bill or rights before the next general election in 2021.

856. Save the Children International encouraged Zambia to expedite the enactment of the Children's Act, to finalise and present the Child Code Bill in parliament, to ratify all three optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to raise the minimum age of criminality and to provide adequate protection for child victims and witnesses during trial, to combat child poverty and malnutrition by strengthening Child Sensitive Social Protection programs, and to establish a process to empower all children to engage with the community.

857. Swedish Association for Sexuality Education commended Zambia for accepting 183 of the 203 recommendations. Zambia's acceptance of a recommendation to limit abortion provisions were contravention of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Maputo Protocol. It noted that the Seventh National Development Plan did not comprehensively address all human rights, particularly sexual and reproductive rights. It urged Zambia to prioritize the holding of a people-driven referendum on the Bill of Rights.

858. Action Canada for Population and Development expressed concern about the risk from social and legal criminalization of gender and sexuality. They encouraged Zambia to comply with its regional and international obligations, to repeal laws that criminalise same sex conduct, sex work and abortion, and to ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services.

859. Franciscans International encouraged Zambia to ensure community engagement in an adequate and accessible form, through the timely and comprehensive disclosure of project-related information. It also encouraged Zambia to adopt specific legislation on development-based displacement, resettlement and compensation for affected communities, providing clear guidelines to prevent forced evictions and to ensure sustainable and adequate reparation.

860. Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII encouraged Zambia to make further funding available, to better allocate resources for food and nutrition, education and social and labour inclusion of people with disabilities, to strengthen nutrition education in schools, to



establish a national schools mapping mechanism, to ratify the Optional Protocol to CRPD, to provide more education centres, services and activities for people with disabilities.

861. Amnesty International regretted that Zambia did not accept recommendations to guarantee the rights to freedom of assembly, association and expression, and to abolish the death penalty. It was also concerned by the use of criminal libel laws to silence critics of the ruling party. It called on Zambia to abolish the death penalty. It welcomed Zambia's acceptance of a recommendation to reform the Public Order Act and encouraged the Government to consult with civil society in ensuring compliance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It was concerned by the continued handing down of the death penalty.

862. CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation was concerned that Zambia had not implemented recommendations relating to civic space. The Government continued to use the Public Order Act to unwarrantedly limit the exercise of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly. It called on Zambia to take proactive measures to implement recommendations in law and in practice.

863. Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme regretted the retention of the death penalty and highlighted that being a de facto abolitionist State is not enough to protect the right to life and dignity. It urged Zambia to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR to abolish death penalty. It encouraged Zambia to protect and promote human rights, especially the advancement of women and to engage in the abolitionist efforts of the African Commission's Working Group on the death penalty.

#### **4. Concluding remarks of the State under review**

864. The President stated that based on the information provided out of 203 recommendations received, 183 enjoy the support of Zambia, 1 recommendation was supported in part and noted in part with the required clarification provided, and 19 recommendations were noted.

865. The delegation valued the constructive comments received from the floor and took note of the thematic issues that required urgent attention, such as the rights of women and children, the death penalty, a review of the abortion laws and expanding the bill of rights, amongst others.

866. The delegation reiterated Zambia's gratitude to the President and Secretariat of the Human Rights Council and to the troika for their support. Zambia remained committed to the universal periodic review process and endeavoured to continue to intensify its efforts to implement human rights activities.

#### **Japan**

867. The review of Japan was held on 14 November 2017 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Japan in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/JPN/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/ JPN /2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/ JPN /3).

868. At its 42nd meeting, on 19 March 2018, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Japan (see section C below).

869. The outcome of the review of Japan comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/37/15), the views of Japan concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (*see also A/HRC/37/15/Add.1*).

**1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome**

870. The Deputy Representative of Japan, Mitsuko Shino, expressed sincere appreciation for the efforts by the troika, namely Qatar, Belgium and Togo, as well as the OHCHR secretariat for preparing the outcome document.

871. Japan noted that at the review that took place on 14 November 2017, the Japanese delegation consisting of relevant ministries and agencies and headed by the Government Representative, Mr. Yoshifumi Okamura, explained, in detail, its follow-up efforts and achievements since the previous review such as the conclusion of human rights conventions, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Such achievements included domestic and overseas initiatives, including ones toward “Realization of a society where all women shine”.

872. Japan also stated that the universal periodic review, which places its basis in dialogue and cooperation, was an important mechanism that contributes to the improvement of the human rights situation in all Member States. In this regard, Japan reiterated its thanks to the Member States for their constructive and valuable comments, including advanced questions.

873. Japan remarked that this was a milestone year as the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights highlighting that Japan had consistently placed importance on fundamental values such as democracy, freedom, human rights, and the rule of law, and had continued with tireless efforts to promote and protect human rights both inside and outside Japan.

874. Japan stated that as a member of the Human Rights Council from the Asia-Pacific region, Japan would continue to make contribution to the discussions for the promotion of human rights in the United Nations and for the improvement of the human rights situation in other countries, as well as to the promotion of development cooperation for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

875. Japan emphasized on the process of examining the recommendations received, which required the involvement of many ministries: all of the recommendations were fully reviewed by the relevant ministries and were carefully considered. In addition, during this review process, Government Ministries had the opportunity to hear frank opinions from parliamentarians and civil society, including the Japan Federation of Bar Association. Japan stated that it would continue to attach importance to having dialogues with civil society, including non-governmental organizations.

876. Japan noted that out of a total of 217 recommendations, Japan agreed to follow upon 145 recommendations, including those related to the protection and promotion of the rights of the socially vulnerable, such as women, children and persons with disabilities. Japan also noted that, as a result of examination by the relevant ministries, some recommendations were not accepted by Japan.

877. Japan stressed that it intended to follow up on the supported recommendations in an appropriate manner, just as it did during the previous review cycles. Japan had taken concrete measures on some of the recommendations while having the intention of continuing to follow upon these recommendations as well.

878. Japan also noted that since the review in November 2017, Japan had seen some progress on some of the recommendations that it has agreed to follow up on. For example, at the End Violence Solutions Summit on Eradicating Violence Against Children held in Sweden this year, Japan expressed its commitment to becoming a path-finding country in the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and to contributing to the Fund to End Violence Against Children.

879. Furthermore, Japan held a first multi-stakeholder meeting on baseline study on business and human rights as a process of formulating our National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights a week ago. In this regard, Japan emphasized that formulating the National Action Plan recommended by several countries at the universal periodic review was a step toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Japan would continue making efforts in this field in order for it to be able to report its positive progress in the next cycle of the universal periodic review.

880. Japan was of the view that, in order to make the universal periodic review a more effective mechanism, it is critical for each country to make constant efforts for the implementation of the recommendations through its voluntary follow-up efforts. Japan has submitted a voluntary mid-term report on the progress made in relation to its previous two reviews. Japan intends to do the same for our fourth review.

881. Additionally, Japan emphasized the importance of increasing public awareness on the results of the review from a human rights education perspective. In this regard, Japan plans to upload a translated version of the Japan universal periodic review outcome report on its Foreign Ministry's website.

882. While noting that considerations of a few Japan's periodic reports to the treaty bodies were scheduled to be held by the next cycle of the universal periodic review, Japan stated that it would continue to appropriately follow upon the recommendations received from these treaty bodies. It would also strengthen its cooperation with each treaty body and its commitment pertaining to the implementation of each human rights instrument. In this regard, Japan considered it important that recommendations be clear, concise, and realizable, and their number should be reduced from the present level in order to avoid duplication.

883. Japan stated that it would host the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics in 2020 while expressing the hope that the 2020 Games would be an opportunity to foster an inclusive society, based on diversity and harmony, in which all kinds of differences are recognized, including race, gender, sexual orientation, and disabilities.

## **2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

884. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Japan, 12 delegations made statements. The statements of the delegations that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints<sup>57</sup> are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council, if uploaded.

885. Tunisia welcomed Japan's acceptance of a majority of the recommendations presented to Japan during the session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, including those made by Tunisia.

886. The Sudan welcomed Japan's accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the adoption of the 2014 Action Plan to combat trafficking in persons.

887. Albania appreciated Japan's accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It also welcomed the fourth action plan for gender equality and the intensive policy aimed at accelerating women's empowerment related to the participation and advancement of women in the workplace.

<sup>57</sup><https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/34thSession/Pages/default.aspx>

888. Egypt welcomed Japan's support to the recommendations made by Egypt: to formulate a national work plan for the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights; and to ratify the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

889. Ethiopia commended Japan for accepting Ethiopia's recommendations to establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the accepted international standards, as well as to scale up the human rights protection awareness-raising for vulnerable groups, including migrant workers.

890. Ghana welcomed the fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality and the Intensive Policy aimed at accelerating the empowerment of women and promoting women's participation and advancement in the workplace. It also noted Japan's efforts to enforce the Hate Speech Elimination Act.

891. Haiti thanked Japan for considering Haiti's 2 recommendations: to promulgate an anti-discrimination law; and to establish a national regulatory framework to assess the environmental impact of the business activities of multinational corporations. Haiti regretted that Japan noted Haiti third recommendation to consider improving the basic pension scheme for the elderly.

892. Honduras expressed its hope that Japan: explores the possibility to ratify the Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; approves a comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation in line with Japan's international obligations and relevant standards; and redoubles its efforts to combat human trafficking and adopt a specific action plan for the protection and compensation of victims.

893. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended Japan for the implementation of laws and programmes aimed at fulfilling its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; and the Action Plan to combat trafficking in persons.

894. Iraq welcomed Japan's acceptance of one recommendation out of a total of three recommendations made by Iraq during the session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review.

895. The Lao People's Democratic Republic commended on Japan's continuing efforts to promote and protect human rights. It also welcomed Japan's action to promote the rights of women by enhancing their participation in all areas, including politics, the judiciary and executive branch, and in the economy.

896. Madagascar welcomed the measures taken to eliminate sexual exploitation of children and to tackle the issues of sexual offences and human trafficking. It also noted the enforcement of a law to eliminate hate speech. It encouraged Japan to continue with the already begun reforms aimed at improving the respect of human rights and the rule of law.

### **3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders**

897. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Japan, 10 other stakeholders made statements. The statements of the stakeholders that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints<sup>58</sup> are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council, if uploaded.

898. International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR) regretted that Japan failed to support the recommendations on anti-discrimination law and minority ethnic Koreans and the people of Ryukyu/Okinawa. It urged Japan to fully support the noted recommendations, and to design a concrete national action plan for the implementation of the universal periodic review recommendations.

---

<sup>58</sup><https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/34thSession/Pages/default.aspx>

899. International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) expressed concern that the policies of Japan in Fukushima were inconsistent with the guiding principles on internal displacement, and not compatible with Japan's acceptance of the universal periodic review recommendations of Austria and Portugal. It called on Japan to fully implement, without any delay, the accepted universal periodic review recommendations.

900. Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco, in a joint statement with International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education, and Development, expressed concern about Japan's high-pressure education system, which sometimes leads to suicides. They called on Japan to: sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communication procedure; reform the educational system; and implement the prohibition of corporal punishment of children in all settings.

901. Foundation of Japanese Honorary Debts asked Japan to clear its past with victims of the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II. It stated that Japan remained tainted and cursed for its past military atrocities. While noting that there are no statute of limitations on war crimes and crimes against humanity, it emphasized that Japanese war crimes committed during the occupation of Dutch East Indies from 1941 – 1945 cannot be absolved. It urged Japan to resolve this long-lasting issue respectfully and honourably.

902. Franciscans International urged Japan to ensure full enjoyment of the rights of Ryukyu/Okinawa based on the principle of free, prior and informed consent. It also urged Japan to adopt anti-discrimination law and legislation that prohibits discrimination based on ethnic identity. It further expressed concern that the construction of a new U.S. military base is causing further severe human rights violations, without prior consultation with the people of Ryukyu/Okinawa.

903. Amnesty International was alarmed at the continued use of the death penalty in Japan. It called on Japan to establish an official moratorium on execution as a first step toward the abolition of the death penalty. It also called on the Government of Japan to introduce comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation at the national level to provide equal protection against discrimination for all persons and on all ground, including sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics.

904. Greenpeace International called on the Government of Japan to immediately and fully adopt and implement the recommendations of the Human Rights Council. It called on the Government to protect people in Fukushima and East Japan, especially vulnerable children, from further radiation exposure.

905. Japan Federation of Bar Associations, in a video statement, urged Japan to implement diligently the supported recommendations, in particular those on discrimination, the adoption of the individual communication system and the establishment of a national human rights institution. It regretted that Japan did not accept recommendations, including those on a moratorium on the death penalty, the abolition of substitute prison, or ratification of the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty.

906. Human Rights Now regretted that Japan had not fully accepted the recommendations on broadcaster independence and anti-discrimination law. It called on Japan to implement the recommendations related to the establishment of an independent national human rights institution; to resume housing support for all evacuees and implement comprehensive health checks; and to revise policy based on the internationally recognized 1 mSv/year standard for Fukushima.

907. Advocates for Human Rights called on Japan to undertake a comprehensive public education campaign, in collaboration with civil society organizations such as the Center for Prisoners' Rights, in order to educate the public about human rights and alternatives to the death penalty.

#### 4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

908. The President stated that based on the information provided out of 217 recommendations received, 145 enjoy the support of Japan and 72 are noted.

909. Japan expressed its sincere appreciation to all stakeholders who had actively and constructively been engaged in the Japan's universal periodic review. Japan stated that it would continue its efforts for the promotion and protection of human rights inside and outside of the country, as well as for ensuring that Japan's views and efforts are well understood by the international community on an objective and factual basis.

910. Regarding Japan's recognition on the history, Japan stated that Japan was squarely facing up to the history, which was made clear by the statement by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of 14 August 2015, in which Japan expressed deep remorse for the past war. Japan also emphasized that such positions articulated by the previous Cabinets would remain unshakable into the future. Japan expressed that with deep remorse for the past and repentance for the war, it has been consistently promoting freedom, democracy and the rule of law as a contributor to the peace and prosperity in Asia and the world.

911. Regarding the people in Okinawa, Japan noted it was largely understood that the people in Okinawa inherited a unique culture and tradition over their long history. However, the Government of Japan recognizes only the Ainu people as indigenous people in Japan. The people of Okinawa are equally Japanese nationals. Therefore, they enjoy the rights of Japanese nationals.

912. Regarding the recommendations related to the death penalty, Japan expressed its belief that the death penalty issue should be decided independently by each country in accordance with the law. Japan stressed that domestic public opinion, the existence of extremely vicious crime cases and other factors made it inappropriate to abolish the death penalty.

913. Regarding the recommendations related to freedom of expression, Japan stated that freedom of expression, including that of the press is one of the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Japanese Constitution. Japan also stated that it had given every respect to this right in applying the Broadcast Act.

914. Regarding the recommendations related to the nuclear accident in Fukushima, Japan stated that it would do its utmost to accelerate reconstruction, bearing in mind that many people, including nuclear accident victims, are living with great inconvenience as evacuees even now. Japan would continue to implement measures, including those to ensure the provision of medical and long-term nursing care systems and to develop the educational environment for children.

915. In conclusion, Japan reiterated its continued commitment to constructively cooperating with the universal periodic review.

#### Ukraine

916. The review of Ukraine was held on 15 November 2017 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Ukraine in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/UKR/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/UKR/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/UKR/3).

917. At its 42nd meeting, on 19 March 2018, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Ukraine (see section C below).

918. The outcome of the review of Ukraine comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/37/16), the views of Ukraine concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (*see also A/HRC/37/16/Add.1*).

**1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome**

919. The head of the delegation of Ukraine, Permanent Representative of Ukraine, Yuriy Klymenko, expressed appreciation to all delegations for their recommendations made in November 2017, and to the troika members – Rwanda, Netherlands and Georgia for facilitating the review process.

920. The head of the delegation stated that the universal periodic review provides an important channel to elaborate on national achievements and challenges in the field of human rights in a constructive and equal manner. Ukraine is committed to secure a successful future for the universal periodic review mechanism as a whole and its position on the recommendations received took into account proposals of the civil society through wide consultations with all relevant state bodies.

921. Bearing in mind that the goal of the universal periodic review is not mere acceptance but rather relevant implementation of the recommendations, the Government of Ukraine examined the 190 recommendations made during the session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, methodically considered all of them through inter-government cooperation and consultations with civil society representatives, and finally accepted 163 recommendations and noted 27 recommendations.

922. The Government provided its written comments in the addendum to the Working Group's report, noting that a number of accepted recommendations are already in the process of being implemented.

923. Regarding noted recommendations, the delegation stated that in Ukraine the universal periodic review process was largely based on consultations with and active role of different governmental bodies and non-governmental organizations. The dialogue with civil society was a great opportunity to assess the human rights situation in a self-critical manner: this was a good experience that is worth to be continued.

924. In order to establish an effective follow-up procedure under the aegis of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, a working group will be created to elaborate the mechanism and seemingly an action plan for the implementation of the universal periodic review recommendations. This group will include not only representatives of the relevant state institutions, but also representatives of non-governmental organizations. The Government welcomes the civil society participation in and its contribution to the implementation process. Only by working together, positive changes for everyone can be achieved.

925. The delegation said that Ukraine was aware of the human rights challenges, but it has persevered diligently to address them. The main challenge for Ukraine at present, having the greatest impact on the human rights situation as well as on all spheres of the life of Ukrainians, is the Russian aggression which has highlighted new problems related to the protection of human rights in the areas of occupation. Kremlin-backed militants and Russian regular servicemen are using force and ideologically-motivated violence, which results in killing and torture of prisoners, hostage-taking and disappearances.

926. Ukraine has faced a humanitarian crisis, which resulted in around 1.5 million Ukrainians who have had to leave their homes and become internally displaced persons. In

2014 Ukraine lacked experience, means and a legislative framework to deal with the mass influx of people from the temporary occupied territories of Donbas and Crimea. Short-term housing and emergency help was provided to people fleeing persecution and war. Ukraine is appreciating the international support and experience in finding solutions to these extraordinary challenges.

927. There is a clear understanding that Russian aggression should not hinder or prevent Ukraine from implementing its international human rights obligations and commitments, respecting human rights and strengthening the democratic functioning of the country's institutions in line with the international standards and values. Ukraine's work on human rights remains based on the universality and indivisibility of human rights, the principle of non-discrimination and equal opportunities, and transparency.

928. The delegation finally stated that dialogue with all United Nations Member States in the universal periodic review global forum retains states focused and self-critical and forces them to keep looking into possible improvements: the universal periodic review mechanism creates an environment to genuinely contribute to strengthening national human rights all over the world.

## **2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

929. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Ukraine, 13 delegations made statements. The statements of the delegations that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints<sup>59</sup> are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council, if uploaded.

930. Georgia, as a member of the troika, commended the delegation of Ukraine for its exemplary engagement during the session. Georgia noted with appreciation the acceptance of most of recommendations, including Georgia's recommendations, related to the intensification of cooperation with the international community.

931. Honduras congratulated Ukraine for their constructive spirit and expressed hope that Ukraine consider the possibility of ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and that they consider to assign the necessary financial, technical and human resources so as to strengthen the office of the ombudsman, to adopt specific policies to prevent and combat, inter alia, the increase in hate speech and the number of crimes based on racial prejudice, summary executions, sexual violence.

932. Lithuania positively noted Ukraine's acceptance of the majority of recommendations, and particularly welcomed Ukraine's support for all the recommendations provided by Lithuania. It also appreciated Ukraine's constitutional amendments to allow for the ratification of the Rome Statute and steps taken with a view to ratify the Istanbul Convention. Lithuania supported efforts by Ukraine to hold accountable those responsible for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the occupied territories.

933. The Republic of Moldova commended Ukraine's engagement with the universal periodic review and other international human rights mechanisms, and welcomed Ukraine's acceptance of the majority of recommendations received during the review, including the recommendations made by the Republic of Moldova on prevention of torture and on combating sexual violence. The Republic of Moldova expressed concern over the human rights violations in the conflict-affected areas, while welcoming measures taken by the Government regarding the protection of the rights of those affected by conflict and took this opportunity to reiterate support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

---

<sup>59</sup> <https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/37thSession/Pages/default.aspx>



934. Romania commended Ukraine's acceptance of all recommendations made by Romania and wished Ukraine a successful implementation of recommendations and a fruitful participation in the Human Rights Council.

935. The Russian Federation noted with concern that the majority of Russian recommendations were not accepted by Ukraine without any corresponding explanation. The position adopted by the Ukrainian Government demonstrates that they are unwilling and unable to stop the violations of human rights in the country. The Russian Federation found it unacceptable that a member of the Human Rights Council conducts military actions against its own people, usurps authority and power through limiting the activities of opposition political parties, violates freedom of expression and the right to education for linguistic minorities, and promotes hatred and racism as state policies. The blockade of voting stations for the presidential elections in Russia was a clear demonstration of this attitude.

936. Sierra Leone noted the national action plan on the implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child and the establishment of strategies to provide more comprehensive social protection to the internally displaced persons in the long-term. Sierra Leone was pleased to note that two out of the three recommendations it presented to Ukraine have enjoyed its support. Sierra Leone encouraged Ukraine to consider the possibility of ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families soon.

937. UNFPA commended Ukraine on its universal periodic review report and expressed its willingness to support Ukraine to implement the recommendations it has received in partnership with public entities, the National Human Rights Commission and other national stakeholders, including from civil society and academia. In the framework of the Country Cooperation Programme, UNFPA will provide technical assistance and other forms of support with a focus on specific recommendations.

938. UNICEF welcomed recent progress towards the realisation of child rights in Ukraine including the establishment of an Inter-Agency Coordination Council on Justice for Children and the current process of drafting a juvenile justice law in line with international standards. UNICEF remained concerned with the high numbers of children living in residual care, the lack of safeguards to limit placement and insufficient quality services available to vulnerable families. UNICEF also expressed concern over the increasing proportion of children with disabilities in institutions.

939. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed Ukraine's engagement in the universal periodic review process while it remained concerned about the human rights situation in the East and illegally annexed Crimea, with particular concern for Crimean Tartars, who face regular harassment, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention and enforced psychiatric detainment. Human rights violations and abuses, including extrajudicial killings, illegal detentions, torture and gender-based violence have been committed by all sides in the conflict in Eastern Ukraine. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland hoped that Ukraine will accept its recommendation to record and investigate these violations and abuses and bring the perpetrators to justice.

940. Afghanistan firmly believed that tolerance should be promoted in every society in order to protect all human rights and therefore, appreciated the support of Ukraine for its recommendation to ensure the promotion and protection of cultural diversity and tolerance within society through effective measures, including public campaigns. Afghanistan regretted that Ukraine did not accept its recommendation to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

941. Albania appreciated the work of Ukraine to modify the Constitution and bolster independence of judicial authorities, in particular through the elimination of political influence. Albania encouraged Ukraine to continue its efforts to establish an independent

court and recommended that the Council adopt the outcome of the universal periodic review of Ukraine.

942. Egypt congratulated Ukraine on positive developments, especially the amendments introduced to the Constitution in 2016 to launch a comprehensive judicial reform as well as the creation of a national mechanism for the prevention of torture and mistreatment, and the establishment of a commissioner for gender equality. Egypt recommended Ukraine to pursue efforts to combat human trafficking and ensure victims assistance and hoped that this recommendation will be positively responded to.

### 3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

943. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Ukraine, 8 other stakeholders made statements. The statements of the stakeholders that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints<sup>60</sup> are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council, if uploaded.

944. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom highlighted the effects of austerity measures on the human rights situation in Ukraine and stressed that as a result, women's social and economic rights were in jeopardy. Such policies enhanced the feminization of poverty and hindered the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda and initiatives for combatting gender-based violence. It emphasized the importance of broadening the economic agenda beyond fiscal consolidation and the inclusion of all regions of Ukraine in policy considerations. It also emphasized the interrelation between violence against women, gender inequality, conflict and austerity.

945. Human Rights House Foundation stressed that the responsibility for the dire human rights situation in Crimea lay with local de facto authorities and the authorities of the Russian Federation. It indicated that residents of Crimea were also subject to discriminatory policies from the Ukrainian government. It recommended that Ukraine: simplify access to public services for Crimean residents with regard to registration of births, deaths and marriages; guarantee the right to vote at local elections by IDPs from Crimea; simplify access to Crimea for foreign journalists, lawyers, human rights defenders; and refrain from taking measures aimed at further isolating the Crimean population from its legitimate Ukrainian government.

946. In a joint statement, Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen to Integratie van Homoseksualiteit – COC Nederland commended the Ukraine for accepting ten recommendations on implementing effective measures to combat hate crimes and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). It suggested that to ensure the protection of LGBT, the government should implement all policy actions prescribed in the Action Plan on Implementation of National Human Rights Strategy, noting that most actions had not been followed-up on due to lack of prioritization and unavailability of budget. It called on the government to scale up efforts to implement all recommendations concerning SOGI.

947. Article 19-International Centre against Censorship expressed its concern about the authorities' failure to respect the right to freedom of expression, particularly in relation to journalists, minority groups and those speaking out against corruption. It stated that impunity remained a problem and that law enforcement agencies failed to adequately address attacks on the representatives of the media. It indicated that the authorities must dedicate the resources necessary to investigatory and prosecutorial procedures. It remained concerned about the harassment of civil society organizations involved in exposing corruption schemes and against representatives of marginalized groups and persons protesting right wing nationalism. It urged the government to protect freedom of expression both in law and practice.

948. International Federation for Human Rights Leagues welcomed the acceptance by Ukraine of recommendations to ratify the Istanbul Convention and noted that ratification had

<sup>60</sup><https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/37thSession/Pages/default.aspx>

been put on the parliamentary agenda. It observed that despite abolishing the list of professional bans for women, the labour code still contained discriminatory provisions, restricting women's access to certain professions and stated that all legislation should clearly include the prohibition of discrimination against women.

949. Advocates for Human Rights urged the government to ratify the Istanbul Convention, especially considering that domestic violence is widespread. It indicated that despite accepting recommendations to criminalize domestic violence, Ukraine had only noted recommendations to ensure prosecution and adequate punishment of perpetrators of violence. In 2017, Ukraine amended the Criminal Code to make domestic violence a crime. However, such the adoption of legislation should not substitute for the ratification of the Istanbul Convention. It encouraged the government to fully support and fund the provision of shelter and support services for victims of domestic violence in coordination with relevant NGOs.

950. Amnesty International stated that there were few effective ways for victims of gender-based and domestic violence to protect themselves and seek justice. It welcomed the government's acceptance of recommendations to facilitate the ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention. It highlighted human rights violations occurring in eastern Ukraine and, in this regard, welcomed Ukraine's commitment to cooperate with the International Criminal Court and acceptance of recommendations to ensure the ratification of the Rome Statute. Welcoming the establishment of the State Bureau of Investigations, it called on the government to ensure the necessary resources for the investigation of crimes committed by law-enforcement agencies and public officials. It also expressed concern about the increase in physical violence against independent journalists and civil society organisations since 2016.

951. International Fellowship of Reconciliation drew attention to the case of Ukrainian journalist and human rights activist Ruslan Kotsaba, which raised concerns regarding freedom of expression, freedom of conscience and independence of the members of the judiciary. It provided details of the criminal case that had been opened against him.

#### **4. Concluding remarks of the State under review**

952. The President stated that based on the information provided out of 190 recommendations received, 163 enjoy the support of Ukraine, and 27 are noted.

953. The head of the delegation reiterated that recommendations accepted by Ukraine will be included in the national action plan on the implementation of the human rights national strategy. On the recommendations made by the Russian Federation, the delegation stated that Ukraine's position was unambiguous. The delegation also strongly condemned the Russian Federation's decision to hold elections in the temporarily occupied territory of the autonomous republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on 18 March 2018 in order to legitimize the consequences of its aggression against Ukraine, thus violating international laws and agreements, including General Assembly resolutions. As a result, elections will not have legal consequences, be considered null and void and will not be recognized by the international community.

#### **Sri Lanka**

954. The review of Sri Lanka was held on 15 November 2017 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Sri Lanka in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/LKA/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/LKA/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/LKA/3).

955. At its 42nd meeting, on 19 March 2018, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Sri Lanka (see section C below).

956. The outcome of the review of Sri Lanka comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/37/17), the views of Sri Lanka concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group.

**1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome**

957. The head of the delegation of Sri Lanka, the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in Geneva, Ravinatha Aryasinha, thanked the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the universal periodic review Secretariat and the troika for Sri Lanka's review for their contributions and invaluable cooperation. He expressed appreciation to all delegations for their active participation in Sri Lanka's review and their valuable recommendations.

958. Sri Lanka remained committed to constructive engagement with the United Nations systems and procedures as well as engagement with individual Member States in promoting human rights locally and internationally.

959. The head of delegation stated that Sri Lanka participated in the third review in November 2017 in the backdrop of a renewed and transformed local setting following Presidential and Parliamentary elections in the year 2015 with a renewed focus on strengthening, promoting, protecting and upholding human rights; strengthening democracy, good governance, and the rule of law; reconciliation and sustainable peace; equality and dignity for all; upholding the pluralistic nature of society; and creating inclusive and equitable growth and development in the country.

960. Since Sri Lanka's review in November 2017, it had already made progress on the implementation of some of the recommendations.

961. On 5 December 2017, Sri Lanka acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and designated the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka as the National Preventive Mechanism. On 7 March 2018, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance Bill was passed by the Sri Lanka Parliament, criminalizing enforced disappearance.

962. The head of delegation mentioned that, on 28 February 2018, the President of Sri Lanka had appointed the Chairperson and Commissioners for the Office on Missing Persons, making the Office fully operational. Sri Lanka had allocated Sri Lanka Rupees 1.4 billion for the Office on Missing Persons in the national budget for 2018. The Constitutional Council, in its selection process, had ensured that the Chairperson and Commissioners represent a cross-section of society.

963. A Counter Terrorism Act was envisaged that conforms to human rights safeguards and other international standards. The head of delegation stated that the draft legislation is expected to be gazetted for tabling in Parliament for consideration once the established procedures including translation into local languages are completed shortly. On 6 March 2018, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the formulation of legislation to establish an Office for Reparations.

964. Sri Lanka had also acceded on 13 December 2017 to Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their

Destruction (Ottawa Convention) and acceded on 1 March 2018 to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

965. From 4 to 7 March 2018, Sri Lanka had received the Special Envoy on the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. From 4 to 15 December 2017, it had received the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention for an official visit, and in January 2018 it had participated in the review on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

966. Amendments were brought to the Local Authorities Election Act and the Provincial Councils Election Act, ensuring a quota to elect female representatives to the Local Government and Provincial Councils.

967. For the effective implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017--2021 a three-tier mechanism had been established to regularly monitor progress being made by all the relevant line ministries and agencies and to give guidance and direction (an inter-ministerial committee, an Officials Committee, and ten ministerial sectoral committees). All action points specified in the plan were being incorporated into the action plans of the relevant ministries and agencies. The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka was represented in the Officials Committee, and civil society representatives nominated by the Human Rights Commission were represented in all sectoral committees.

968. The head of delegation stated that in response to recent incidents targeting members of the Muslim community, Sri Lanka was determined to take action against all perpetrators of the incidents in accordance with the due process of the law. Victim compensation processes had already commenced and arrests had been made. Temporary restrictions on the use of social media had been lifted. Sri Lanka had entered into active engagement with social media operators, particularly Facebook, to work on the prevention of hate speech. The emergency regulations imposed on 6 March 2018 were rescinded on 17 March 2018.

969. Sri Lanka, with technical assistance from OHCHR, was exploring the best possible mechanism to put in place locally for regular reporting and follow-up of recommendations emanating from the universal periodic review process and treaty bodies. The head of delegation expressed appreciation for the assistance that OHCHR had offered in this regard.

## **2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

970. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Sri Lanka, 13 delegations made statements. The statements of the delegations that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints<sup>61</sup> are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council, if uploaded.

971. The Russian Federation stated that it supported the efforts of the Sri Lankan Government to provide reconciliation, protection of the victims of crimes, and guaranteeing freedom of expression. It stated that it trusted that Sri Lanka will continue implementing a policy geared towards bringing its legislation into line with its international human rights commitments.

972. Sierra Leone noted the Government's commitment to cooperating with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, the extension of a standing invitation to all thematic special procedures, and the accession to the Optional Protocol against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. It was pleased to note that most of its recommendations presented to Sri Lanka were supported and applauded any future legislative measure to effectively combat hate speech and incitement to hatred.

973. The Sudan noted with satisfaction the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the establishment of the Ministry of National Integration and

<sup>61</sup><https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/34thSession/Pages/default.aspx>

Reconciliation and the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017-2021. It commended Sri Lanka on the standing invitation to the special procedures, and noted with satisfaction that Sri Lanka supported the two recommendations presented by the Sudan.

974. The United Nations Population Fund mentioned that in the context of universal health coverage, there was a need to ensure equal access to sexual and reproductive health services without discrimination, including persons with disabilities, the elderly and other populations in disadvantage. It stated that further measures were needed to provide youth and adolescents, including those who fall outside of formal education settings, with access to quality comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and RHE. It mentioned that it will continue to support the Ministry of Education and associated institutions to develop a national CSE teacher training guide as well as the Ministry of Vocational Training to reach out to out-of-school young people. It stated that the implementation of the National Action Plan to address sexual and gender-based violence and the Women Headed Household Action Plan needed to be expedited with adequate budgetary allocations and the enforcement of laws for a timely prosecution of rape and sexual violence and compensation for victims.

975. The United Arab Emirates appreciated the positive steps taken in various human rights spheres in line with national needs and priorities. It highly appreciated the commitment to the implementation of measures to bolster the sustainable development and social justice, whilst ensuring the exercise of economic, social and cultural rights. It also appreciated the constructive and responsible approach that marked Sri Lanka's efforts to strengthen the rule of law and good governance.

976. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed Sri Lanka's acceptance of a number of its recommendations, including the accession to the Optional Protocol against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. It welcomed Sri Lanka's commitment to design and implement strategies to tackle sexual and gender-based violence, including addressing related stigma towards victims and survivors. It called upon Sri Lanka to introduce legislation requiring businesses to report publicly on efforts to ensure transparency in supply chains. It also urged Sri Lanka to fully implement the commitments made in resolutions 30/1 and 34/1.

977. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the development of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017-2021 and the free education from primary to university levels.

978. Afghanistan appreciated Sri Lanka's support to its recommendations to consider the ratification of the Optional Protocol against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and to ensure the full alignment of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka with the Paris Principles.

979. China appreciated the formulation of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017-2021 and Sri Lanka's commitment to eliminate poverty, developing the economy and raising people's living standards. It appreciated Sri Lanka's acceptance of China's recommendations, and hoped that it would continue to promote sustainable economic and social development and poverty alleviation, and to better protect people's rights to education, health, work and food and other rights.

980. Belarus welcomed Sri Lanka's active interaction with the treaty bodies and special procedures, as well as the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017-2021.

981. Burundi welcomed the reforms undertaken in the judicial sector to improve the administration of justice, in particular to remedy the delays in this area. It welcomed the adoption of the Law on Assistance and Protection for Victims of Crime and Witnesses and commended its efforts to reduce poverty. It commended Sri Lanka on the establishment of the Ministry of National Coexistence, Dialogue and Official Languages and the Secretariat for the coordination of reconciliation mechanisms. It encouraged Sri Lanka to continue its efforts to improve the rights of women and children.

982. Algeria welcomed the progress made by Sri Lanka in human rights since the transition in 2015, and the Government's commitment to find political solutions to the problems of armed conflict, within the framework of national reconciliation. It welcomed the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017-2021, the ratification of a number of international human rights instruments and the adoption of measures to combat torture. It noted that Sri Lanka had accepted the recommendations made by Algeria, regarding national reconciliation and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

983. Cuba mentioned that the information provided by the delegation showed that there was a commitment to advance in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country, despite the important challenges it faced. It stated that the implementation of the accepted recommendations and the promises and voluntary commitments made by the country would help overcome these challenges.

### 3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

984. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Sri Lanka, 10 other stakeholders made statements. The statements of the stakeholders that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints<sup>62</sup> are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council, if uploaded.

985. The International Buddhist Relief Organisation made a statement. Dominicans for Justice and Peace - Order of Preachers, together with Franciscans International, stated that serious concerns remained regarding the Colombo International Financial City, in particular regarding the loss of livelihood of fishing communities. It flagged that sand mining and dumping activities were destroying the coral reefs. A looming hazard was the emission of toxic particles by the construction of high-rise buildings during 15 to 20 years which had not been sufficiently mentioned in Environmental Impact Assessment reports. It asked States to urge Sri Lanka to ensure that comprehensive Environmental and Human Rights Impact Assessments are carried out, to conduct a participatory and effective consultation with all stakeholders, and to ensure that no health hazards result from the construction of the project.

986. The International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism welcomed the appointment of the Commissioners for the Office of Missing Persons and called upon Sri Lanka to take the necessary measures to ensure that the Office can operate independently and effectively. It expressed grave concerns over the series of violent attacks against Muslim communities and urged Sri Lanka to provide adequate protection for the community concerned, conduct thorough investigations and bring every perpetrator to justice, and take decisive measures against any group of individual who incite to hatred, violence or racial discrimination, in line with article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. It also emphasized the need to uphold a victim-centred approach and an inclusive policy when developing strategies for universal periodic review follow-up.

987. The Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development noted that Sri Lanka had not accepted recommendations to repeal or review the Prevention of Terrorism Act and expressed regret that the Government had rejected recommendations to develop a clear timeline and benchmarks to accelerate the implementation of its commitments under Human Rights Council resolution 30/1. It called on the Government to develop a concrete and time-bound implementation plan in consultation with national human rights institutions and civil society organisations.

988. The World Evangelical Alliance, together with Christian Solidarity Worldwide, highlighted their concerns regarding freedom of religion or belief in Sri Lanka. It mentioned that it had documented over 20 incidents of threats to Christians since 15 November 2017, including attacks on places of worship and inter-community incidents. It mentioned that Muslim minorities were also being attacked and condemned the communal tensions in

<sup>62</sup><https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/34thSession/Pages/default.aspx>

Digana, Kandy. It commended the actions of local-level government officials and law enforcement officials who intervened on behalf of Christians in Batticaloa District. It renewed the call for the formal recognition of evangelical Christian communities in Sri Lanka, and reiterated the call for the Ministry of Buddhasasana and Religious Affairs to withdraw the Circular issued in September 2008 pertaining to the construction of places of worship.

989. The International Commission of Jurists urged the Government to demonstrate through action its willingness to bring to account those who have incited communal violence, in line with the ICCPR Act. It noted the limited progress made on implementing Human Rights Council resolution 30/1. It stated that there was little transparency with regard to the other mechanisms, in particular on accountability, as well as efforts to repeal and replace the Prevention of Terrorism Act. It mentioned that any new counterterrorism law must comply with international human rights.

990. Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit - COC Nederland – commended Sri Lanka’s commitment in the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017-2021 to protect those discriminated because of their gender identity. It stated that it was unfortunate that protection based on sexual orientation was omitted other than specifically in the healthcare sector. It also urged Sri Lanka to expand the fundamental rights chapter of the Sri Lanka Constitution to include protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation explicitly, and further amend the Human Rights Action Plan to include protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation. It stated that Sri Lanka should set up mechanisms to address and break down the stigma around the LGBTIQ community, by initiating public awareness efforts to educate law enforcement, teachers, health care workers, public employees and the general public and call for an end to attacks, abuse and discrimination based on SOGIESC.

991. Amnesty International noted that Sri Lanka had taken some important steps towards delivering on the commitments in Human Rights Council resolution 30/1, but expressed disappointment by the lack of further progress in particular with regard to addressing enforced disappearances, ensuring protection of religious and ethnic minorities and human rights defenders, and repealing the Prevention of Terrorism Act. It expressed deep concern that Sri Lanka had failed to publish a timeline for the full implementation of Human Rights Council resolution 30/1 and that it had rejected six universal periodic review recommendations to do so. It called on Sri Lanka to urgently provide the Human Rights Council with a time-bound schedule for the implementation of commitments under Human Rights Council resolution 30/1, to take immediate steps to guarantee accountability and reparations, to publish a complete list of detainees and those who surrendered, and to repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

992. Franciscans International, together with Dominicans for Justice and Peace, expressed concern that Sri Lanka had not accepted many recommendations of steps necessary to implement an effective transitional justice process. It stated that of particular concern was the shrinking space of civil society and reprisals against human rights defenders and journalists.

993. Advocates for Human Rights welcomed Sri Lanka’s acknowledgement during the interactive dialogue that it is abolitionist in practice and saluted its commitment to consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to consider abolishing the death penalty. It urged Sri Lanka to ensure that its consideration of abolition over the next four years is genuine, thoughtful, and constructive, and includes concrete measures, such as parliamentary debates, transparent and thorough responses to the Human Rights Commission’s formal review of the death penalty, consultations with civil society organisations, and a public education campaign about human rights including alternatives to the death penalty.



#### 4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

994. The President stated that based on the information provided out of 230 recommendations received, 177 enjoy the support of Sri Lanka and 53 are noted.

995. The head of delegation thanked the OHCHR Secretariat, the troika of Sri Lanka, and all States and other stakeholders for their contributions to the universal periodic review of Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka was looking forward to continue to implement the recommendations, which would be done in consultation and in cooperation with all stakeholders on the ground as well as systems and procedures of the United Nations and those international partners that assist Sri Lanka to reach its human rights and development goals.

### B. General debate on agenda item 6

996. At the 42nd to 43rd meetings, on 19 March 2018, the Council held a general debate on agenda item 6, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Bulgaria<sup>63</sup> (on behalf of the European Union), China, Cuba, Georgia, Iraq, Jordan<sup>64</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Kenya, Russian Federation<sup>65</sup> (also on behalf of Algeria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam), South Sudan<sup>66</sup> (also on behalf of Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Mozambique, Nepal, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Yemen), Togo (on behalf of the Group of African States), Tunisia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam<sup>67</sup> (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Botswana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Morocco, Republic of Moldova, Sierra Leone;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: Council of Europe;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: ABC Tamil Oli; Action of Human Movement (AHM); Advocates for Human Rights; African Regional Agricultural Credit Association; Alliance Creative Community Project; Alsalam Foundation; Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc; Amnesty International; Association Bharathi Centre Culturel Franco-Tamoul; Association Culturelle des Tamouls en France; Association d'Entraide Médicale Guinée; Association des étudiants tamouls de France; Association of World Citizens; Association pour les Victimes Du Monde; Association Solidarité Internationale pour l'Afrique (SIA); Association Thendral; Canners International Permanent Committee; Center for Environmental and Management Studies; Center for Organisation Research and Education; Colombian Commission of Jurists; Commission to Study the Organization of Peace; Conseil International pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux Droits de l'Homme; European Union of Public Relations; Indian Council of South America (CISA); Indigenous People of Africa Coordinating Committee; International Association for Democracy in Africa; International Buddhist Relief Organisation; International Educational Development, Inc.; International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM); International Humanist and Ethical Union; International Lesbian and Gay Association (also on behalf of Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit - COC Nederland and International Service for Human Rights);

<sup>63</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>64</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>65</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>66</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>67</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; International-Lawyers.Org; Iraqi Development Organization; Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture; L'Observatoire Mauritanien des Droits de l'Homme et de la Démocratie; Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association; Organization for Defending Victims of Violence; Pan African Union for Science and Technology; Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation; Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme; Solidarité Suisse-Guinée; Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund (also on behalf of Humanist Institute for Co-operation with Developing Countries and Réseau International des Droits Humains (RIDH)); Tamil Uzhagam; Tourner la page; United Nations Watch; United Schools International; UPR Info; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik; Villages Unis (United Villages); World Environment and Resources Council (WERC); World Muslim Congress.

### **C. Consideration of and action on draft proposals**

#### **Czechia**

997. At the 37th meeting, on 15 March 2018, the Council adopted, without a vote, decision 37/101 on the outcome of the review of Czechia.

#### **Argentina**

998. At the 37th meeting, on 15 March 2018, the Council adopted, without a vote, decision 37/102 on the outcome of the review of Argentina.

#### **Gabon**

999. At the 37th meeting, on 15 March 2018, the Council adopted, without a vote, decision 37/103 on the outcome of the review of Gabon.

#### **Ghana**

1000. At the 38th meeting, on 15 March 2018, the Council adopted, without a vote, decision 37/104 on the outcome of the review of Ghana.

#### **Peru**

1001. At the 38th meeting, on 15 March 2018, the Council adopted, without a vote, decision 37/105 on the outcome of the review of Peru.

#### **Guatemala**

1002. At the 38th meeting, on 15 March 2018, the Council adopted, without a vote, decision 37/106 on the outcome of the review of Guatemala.

#### **Switzerland**

1003. At the 39th meeting, on 15 March 2018, the Council adopted, without a vote, decision 37/107 on the outcome of the review of Switzerland.

#### **Republic of Korea**

1004. At the 39th meeting, on 15 March 2018, the Council adopted, without a vote, decision 37/108 on the outcome of the review of the Republic of Korea.

#### **Benin**

1005. At the 40th meeting, on 19 March 2018, the Council adopted, without a vote, decision 37/109 on the outcome of the review of Benin.

**Pakistan**

1006. At the 41st meeting, on 19 March 2018, the Council adopted, without a vote, decision 37/110 on the outcome of the review of Pakistan.

**Zambia**

1007. At the 41st meeting, on 19 March 2018, the Council adopted, without a vote, decision 37/111 on the outcome of the review of Zambia.

**Japan**

1008. At the 41st meeting, on 19 March 2018, the Council adopted, without a vote, decision 37/112 on the outcome of the review of Japan.

**Ukraine**

1009. At the 41st meeting, on 19 March 2018, the Council adopted, without a vote, decision 37/113 on the outcome of the review of Ukraine.

**Sri Lanka**

1010. At the 42nd meeting, on 19 March 2018, the Council adopted, without a vote, decision 37/114 on the outcome of the review of Sri Lanka.

## **VII. Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories**

### **A. Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967**

1011. At the 43rd meeting, on 19 March 2018, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Michael Lynk, presented his report (A/HRC/37/75).

1012. At the same meeting, the representative of the State of Palestine made a statement as the State concerned.

1013. Also at the same meeting, the national human rights institution, Independent Commission for Human Rights in Palestine, made a statement (by video message).

1014. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan<sup>68</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Tunisia (also on behalf of the Group of African States), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Bahrain, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Djibouti, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Maldives, Morocco, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights; Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man (also on behalf of BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights); Amuta for NGO Responsibility; Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP); The Palestinian Return Centre Ltd; Touro Law Center, The Institute on Human Rights and The Holocaust; Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling; World Jewish Congress.

### **B. Reports of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

1015. At the 44th meeting, on 20 March 2018, pursuant to the Human Rights Council resolutions S-9/1 and S-12/1, the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights introduced the tenth periodic report of the High Commissioner on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular on the excessive use of force, arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment, restrictions on freedoms of movement, expression, peaceful assembly and association, and the pervasive lack of accountability for violations of international human rights and humanitarian law (A/HRC/37/38).

1016. At the same meeting, the Deputy High Commissioner also presented the report of the High Commissioner, pursuant to the Human Rights Council resolution 31/36, on the database of all business enterprises involved in the activities detailed in paragraph 96 of the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (A/HRC/37/39 and Add.1), the report of the High Commissioner, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 34/28, on ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of

<sup>68</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (A/HRC/37/41), the report of the High Commissioner, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 34/30, on human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (A/HRC/37/42) and the report of the High Commissioner, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 34/31, on Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan (A/HRC/37/43).

1017. Also at the same meeting, the Deputy High Commissioner, pursuant to the Human Rights Council resolution 34/27, presented the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan (A/HRC/37/40).

1018. At the same meeting, the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic and the State of Palestine made statements as the States concerned.

### C. General debate on agenda item 7

1019. At its 44th meeting, on 20 March 2018, the Council held a general debate on agenda item 7, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Angola, Bolivia (Plurinational State of)<sup>69</sup> (also on behalf of Algeria, Bangladesh, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), Chile, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Japan, Jordan<sup>70</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Kuwait<sup>71</sup> (on behalf of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf), Nigeria, Pakistan (also on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Togo (on behalf of the Group of African States), Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (also on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Morocco, Namibia, Oman, Russian Federation, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Turkey, Uruguay, Yemen;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Africa Culture Internationale; Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights (also on behalf of World Organisation against Torture); Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man; Amuta for NGO Responsibility; Asian-Eurasian Human Rights Forum; Association of World Citizens; BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights; B'nai B'rith; Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies; Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches; Conseil de jeunesse pluriculturelle (COJEP); Conseil International pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux Droits de l'Homme; European Union of Jewish Students; Human Rights Watch; Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru"; International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists; International Commission of Jurists; International Federation for Human Rights Leagues; International Federation of Journalists; International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM); International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations; International-Lawyers.Org; IUS PRIMI VIRI International Association; Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture; Meezaan

<sup>69</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>70</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>71</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

Center for Human Rights; Norwegian Refugee Council; Organization for Defending Victims of Violence; Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms “MADA”; Palestinian Return Centre Ltd; Touro Law Center, The Institute on Human Rights and The Holocaust; United Nations Watch; Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling; World Jewish Congress; World Muslim Congress.

## **D. Consideration of and action on draft proposals**

### **Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan**

1020. At the 56th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.18, sponsored by Pakistan, on behalf of States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. Subsequently, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined the sponsors.

1021. At the same meeting, the representatives of Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic made statements as the States concerned.

1022. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Australia, Brazil, Ecuador, Slovakia, on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council, South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, made statements in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution.

1023. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

#### *In favour:*

Afghanistan, Angola, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, China, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

#### *Against:*

Australia, Belgium, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Panama, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Togo, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

#### *Abstaining:*

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Japan, Mexico, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Switzerland

1024. The draft resolution was adopted by 25 votes to 14, with 7 abstentions (resolution 37/33).<sup>72</sup>

### **Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination**

1025. At the 56th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.46, sponsored by Pakistan, on behalf of States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and co-sponsored by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Cuba, Ecuador and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Angola, Belarus, Botswana, Costa Rica, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland joined the sponsors.

<sup>72</sup> The delegation of Mongolia did not cast a vote.

1026. At the same meeting, the representative of the State of Palestine made a statement as the State concerned.

1027. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Angola, Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iraq, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Against:*

Australia, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Democratic Republic of the Congo

1028. The draft resolution was adopted by 43 votes to 2, with 1 abstention (resolution 37/34).<sup>73</sup>

**Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem**

1029. At the 56th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.47, sponsored by Pakistan, on behalf of States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and co-sponsored by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Cuba, Ecuador and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Angola, Botswana, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, South Africa and Sweden joined the sponsors.

1030. At the same meeting, the representative of Slovakia, on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council, made a general comment in relation to the draft resolution.

1031. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Angola, Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iraq, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Against:*

Australia, Togo, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

<sup>73</sup> The delegation of Mongolia did not cast a vote.

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda

1032. The draft resolution was adopted by 41 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions (resolution 37/35).<sup>74</sup>

**Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan**

1033. At the 56th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.48, sponsored by Pakistan, on behalf of States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and co-sponsored by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Cuba, Ecuador and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Angola, Botswana, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden and Switzerland joined the sponsors.

1034. At the same meeting, the President of the Council announced that the draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.48 had been orally revised.

1035. At the same meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement as the State concerned.

1036. At the same meeting, the representative of Hungary made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution as orally revised.

1037. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution as orally revised. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Angola, Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Germany, Iraq, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Against:*

Australia, Hungary, Togo, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Panama, Rwanda, Slovakia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

1038. The draft resolution as orally revised was adopted by 34 votes to 4, with 8 abstentions (resolution 37/36).<sup>75</sup>

**Ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem**

1039. At the 56th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.49, sponsored by Pakistan, on behalf of States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and co-sponsored by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Cuba, Ecuador and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Angola, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland joined the sponsors.

<sup>74</sup> The delegation of Mongolia did not cast a vote.

<sup>75</sup> The delegation of Mongolia did not cast a vote.



1040. At the same meeting, the President of the Council announced that the draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.49 had been orally revised.

1041. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution as orally revised. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Angola, Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Against:*

Australia, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Panama, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Slovakia, Spain, Ukraine

1042. The draft resolution as orally revised was adopted by 27 votes to 4, with 15 abstentions (resolution 37/37).<sup>76</sup>

---

<sup>76</sup> The delegation of Mongolia did not cast a vote.

## VIII. Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

### A. General debate on agenda item 8

1043. At its 45th to 46th meeting, on 20 March 2018, the Council held a general debate on agenda item 8, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Bulgaria<sup>77</sup> (on behalf of European Union), China, Iraq, Jordan<sup>78</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan (also on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Togo (on behalf of the Group of African States), Tunisia, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Estonia, Greece, India, Israel, Jordan, Libya, Mozambique, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: International Development Law Organization;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: ABC Tamil Oli; Action of Human Movement (AHM); Advocates for Human Rights; African Regional Agricultural Credit Association; Agence Internationale pour le Developpement; Alliance Creative Community Project; Alsalam Foundation; Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc; Amuta for NGO Responsibility; Association Bharathi Centre Culturel Franco-Tamoul; Association d'Entraide Médicale Guinée; Association for the Protection of Women and Children's Rights (APWCR); Association of World Citizens; Association pour les Victimes Du Monde; Association pour l'Intégration et le Développement Durable au Burundi; Association Solidarité Internationale pour l'Afrique (SIA); Association Thendral; Canners International Permanent Committee; Center for Environmental and Management Studies; Center for Organisation Research and Education; Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy; Commission africaine des promoteurs de la santé et des droits de l'homme; Commission to Study the Organization of Peace; Conectas Direitos Humanos (also on behalf of Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS) Asociación Civil and International Federation for Human Rights Leagues); Conseil International pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux Droits de l'Homme; European Union of Public Relations; Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru"; Indigenous People of Africa Coordinating Committee; International Association for Democracy in Africa; International Buddhist Relief Organisation; International Fellowship of Reconciliation; International Humanist and Ethical Union; International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; International Service for Human Rights; International-Lawyers.Org; Iraqi Development Organization; IUS PRIMI VIRI International Association; Kham Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture; Le Pont; Liberation; L'Observatoire Mauritanien des Droits de l'Homme et de la Démocratie; Maarj Foundation for Peace and Development; Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association; Meezaan Center for Human Rights; Nouveaux droits de l'homme (NDH); Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés (OIPMA); Organisation pour la Communication en Afrique et de Promotion de la Coopération Economique Internationale - OCAPROCE Internationale; Organization for Defending Victims of Violence; Pan African Union for Science and Technology; Prahar; Presse Embleme Campagne; Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme; Réseau International des Droits Humains (RIDH) (also on behalf of Center for Reproductive Rights, Inc., The; Conectas Direitos Humanos; Conselho Indigenista Missionário CIMI; East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project; Franciscans International; Friends of the

<sup>77</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>78</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

Earth International; Front Line, The International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders; International Commission of Jurists; International Federation for Human Rights Leagues; International Lesbian and Gay Association; International Service for Human Rights and World Organisation Against Torture); Solidarité Suisse-Guinée; Stichting International Center for Ethnobotanical Education, Research & Service; Tamil Uzhagam; Tourner la page; United Nations Watch; United Schools International; VAAGDHARA; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik; World Barua Organization (WBO); World Environment and Resources Council (WERC); World Muslim Congress.

1044. At the 46th meetings, on 20 March 2018, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Brazil, China, Cuba, India, Pakistan and Spain.

## **IX. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

### **A. Debate on promoting tolerance, inclusion, unity and respect for diversity in the context of combating racial discrimination**

1045. At the 40th meeting, on 19 March 2018, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/157, the Council held an annual commemorative meeting at the occasion of the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination with a focus on “promoting tolerance, inclusion, unity and respect for diversity in the context of combating racial discrimination”.

1046. At the same meeting, the Director of the Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, made an opening statement for the debate.

1047. Also at the same meeting, the following panellists made statements: the Chief Executive at the Nelson Mandela Foundation, Sello Hatang; the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Foo Kok Jwee; the writer, Fatou Diome; the Member of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Nicolás Marugán. The Council divided the debate into two slots.

1048. During the ensuing discussion for the first slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Angola (on behalf of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries), Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Morocco<sup>79</sup> (on behalf of the States Members and observers of the International Organization of la Francophonie), Togo (on behalf of the Group of African States);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, France, India, Sierra Leone;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observer for a national human rights institution: Australian Human Rights Commission (by video message);

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Article 19 - International Centre against Censorship, The; International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR).

1049. During the discussion for the second slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Iraq, Mexico, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Argentina, Bahrain, Haiti, Iran (Islamic Republic of);

(c) Observer for a national human rights institution: Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain (also on behalf of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Scottish Human Rights Commission) (by video message);

<sup>79</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Conseil International pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux Droits de l'Homme; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik.

1050. At the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

## **B. General debate on agenda item 9**

1051. At the 46th meeting, on 20 March 2018, the Director of the Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights presented, on behalf of the High Commissioner, the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the action plan outlined in Human Rights Council resolution 34/32, on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief (A/HRC/37/44).

1052. At the same meeting, the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe and Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Taonga Mushayavanhu, presented the report of the Committee on its ninth session, held from 24 April to 5 May 2017 (A/HRC/37/76).

1053. Also at the same meeting, the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone and Chair-Rapporteur of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, Yvette Stevens, presented the report of the Working Group on its fifteenth session, held from 9 to 20 October 2017 (A/HRC/37/77).

1054. At the 46th to 47th meeting, on 20 March 2018, the Council held a general debate on agenda item 9, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Bahamas<sup>80</sup> (also on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda), Brazil, Brazil (also on behalf of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay), Bulgaria<sup>81</sup> (on behalf of the European Union), China, Cuba, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan<sup>82</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Mexico, Pakistan (also on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), South Africa, Togo (on behalf of the Group of African States), Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (also on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Botswana, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Libya, Malaysia, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Turkey;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: ABC Tamil Oli; Action of Human Movement (AHM); African Regional Agricultural Credit Association; Alliance Creative Community Project; Alsalam Foundation; Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc; Amuta for NGO Responsibility; Association Bharathi Centre Culturel Franco-Tamoul; Association d'Entraide Médicale Guinée; Association des étudiants tamouls de France; Association for the Protection of Women and Children's Rights (APWCR); Association of World Citizens; Association pour les Victimes Du Monde; Association pour l'Intégration et le Développement Durable au Burundi; Association Solidarité Internationale pour l'Afrique (SIA); Association Thendral; Auspice Stella; Canners International Permanent Committee; Center for Environmental and Management Studies; Center for

<sup>80</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>81</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>82</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

Organisation Research and Education; Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy; Commission to Study the Organization of Peace; Conseil de jeunesse pluriculturelle (COJEP); Conseil International pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux Droits de l'Homme; European Union of Jewish Students; European Union of Public Relations; Human Security Initiative Organization; Indian Council of South America (CISA); Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru"; Indigenous People of Africa Coordinating Committee; International Association for Democracy in Africa; International Buddhist Relief Organisation; International Educational Development, Inc.; International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM); International Humanist and Ethical Union; International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations (also on behalf of African Development Association; Association Dunenyo; BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights; Comité International pour le Respect et l'Application de la Charte Africaine des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples (CIRAC); Commission africaine des promoteurs de la santé et des droits de l'homme; Espace Afrique International; Global Action on Aging; Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru"; International Association Against Torture; International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL); International Educational Development, Inc.; International Federation for the Protection of the Rights of Ethnic, Religious, Linguistic & Other Minorities; International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and Victorious Youths Movement); International-Lawyers.Org; Iraqi Development Organization; IUS PRIMI VIRI International Association; Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture; Le Pont; Liberation; L'Observatoire Mauritanien des Droits de l'Homme et de la Démocratie; Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association; Meezaan Center for Human Rights; Nouveaux droits de l'homme (NDH); Pan African Union for Science and Technology; Prahar; Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme; Sikh Human Rights Group; Society for Development and Community Empowerment; Solidarité Suisse-Guinée; Tamil Uzhagam; Tourner la page; United Nations Watch; United Schools International; United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik; World Barua Organization (WBO); World Environment and Resources Council (WERC); World Jewish Congress; World Muslim Congress.

1055. At the 47th meeting, on 20 March 2018, a statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of Latvia.

### **C. Consideration of and action on draft proposals**

#### **Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief**

1056. At the 56th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.17, sponsored by Pakistan, on behalf of States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. Subsequently, Argentina, Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Canada, the Dominican Republic, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Uruguay joined the sponsors.

1057. At the same meeting, the representative of Slovakia, on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council, made a general comment in relation to the draft resolution.

1058. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

1059. At the same meeting, the draft resolution, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/38).

## **X. Technical assistance and capacity-building**

### **A. High-level interactive dialogue on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic**

1060. At the 49th meeting, on 21 March 2018, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 36/25, the Council held a high-level interactive dialogue on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic.

1061. At the same meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Head of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in New York made an opening statement for the interactive dialogue, on behalf of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

1062. Also at the same meeting, the following made their statements: the Deputy Special Representative and Deputy Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), Kenneth Gluck; the Special Representative of the African Union to the Central African Republic, Bédializoun Moussa Nébié; the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic, Marie-Thérèse Keïta Bocoum; the Minister of Justice of the Central African Republic, Flavien Mbata; the representative of the Leadership de la Femme en Centrafrique (RELEFCA), Lina Ekomo.

1063. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, and at the 50th meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the presenters questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Belgium, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Congo, Czechia, France, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Sudan;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: International Federation for Human Rights Leagues; International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme; World Evangelical Alliance (also on behalf of Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities)).

1064. At the same meeting, the presenters answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

### **B. Enhanced interactive dialogue on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

1065. At the 47th meeting, on 20 March 2018, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 35/33, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Head of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in New York provided an oral update on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

1066. At the same meeting, the following made statements: the Special Representative of Secretary-General in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Head of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Leila Zerrougui; the leader of the international team of experts on the situation in the Kasai regions, Bacre Waly Ndiaye; the Minister of Human rights of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Marie-Ange Mushobekwa.



1067. During the ensuing discussion, at the same meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the presenters questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Angola, Australia, Belgium, China, Germany, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Botswana, Congo, France, Ireland, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Sudan;

(c) Observer for a United Nations entity, specialized agency and related organization: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs; African Development Association; Amnesty International; Human Rights Watch; International Federation for Human Rights Leagues; International Federation of ACAT (Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture); International Service for Human Rights; World Evangelical Alliance.

1068. At the same meeting, the presenters answered questions and made concluding remarks.

### C. Interactive dialogue on the situation of human rights in Libya

1069. At the 48th meeting, on 21 March 2018, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 34/38, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Head of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in New York presented the report of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Libya, including on the effectiveness of technical assistance and capacity-building measures received by the Government of Libya (A/HRC/37/46).

1070. At the same meeting, the representative of Libya made a statement as the State concerned.

1071. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: China, Egypt, Germany, Jordan<sup>83</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Malta, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Sudan, Yemen;

(c) Observer for a United Nations entity, specialized agency and related organization: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies; Human Rights Watch; International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (also on behalf of International-Lawyers.Org); Maarif Foundation for Peace and Development; Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de

<sup>83</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

l'homme; United Nations Watch; United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

1072. At the same meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

#### **D. Interactive dialogue on cooperation and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights**

1073. At the 49th meeting, on 21 March 2018, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 35/31, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights provided an oral update on the situation of human rights in Ukraine.

1074. At the same meeting, the representative of Ukraine made a statement as the State concerned.

1075. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Deputy High Commissioner questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Albania, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Sweden;

(c) Observers for intergovernmental organizations: Council of Europe, European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Advocates for Human Rights; Amnesty International; Human Rights House Foundation; Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru"; World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations.

1076. At the same meeting, the Deputy High Commissioner answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

#### **E. Interactive dialogue with special procedures mandate holders**

##### **Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali**

1077. At the 48th meeting, on 21 March 2018, Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali, Suliman Baldo, presented his report (A/HRC/37/78).

1078. At the same meeting, the representative of Mali made a statement as the State concerned.

1079. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Independent Expert questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: China, Côte d'Ivoire, Germany, Senegal, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, France, Luxembourg, Norway, Sudan;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: International Catholic Child Bureau (also on behalf of Mouvement International d'Apostolate des Milieux Sociaux

Independants); International Federation for Human Rights Leagues; International Service for Human Rights; United Nations Watch.

1080. At the same meeting, the Independent Expert answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

## **F. General debate on agenda item 10**

1081. At the 51st meeting, on 22 March 2018, the Deputy United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights introduced country-specific reports and oral updates of the High Commissioner submitted under agenda item 10 (A/HRC/37/45, A/HRC/37/64).

1082. At the same meeting, Director of the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights made a statement.

1083. Also at the same meeting, the member of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, Morten Kjaerum, presented the report of the Board of Trustees (A/HRC/37/79).

1084. At the same meeting, the representatives of Afghanistan, Cambodia, Haiti and Yemen made statements as the States concerned.

1085. During the ensuing general debate, at the 51th to 52nd meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Antigua and Barbuda<sup>84</sup> (also on behalf of Afghanistan, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Mozambique, Nepal, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Sudan and Yemen), Australia, Brazil (also on behalf of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Peru and Uruguay), Bulgaria<sup>85</sup> (on behalf of the European Union), China, Egypt, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iraq, Japan, Jordan<sup>86</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Mexico, Netherlands<sup>87</sup> (also on behalf of Belgium, Canada, Egypt, Ireland, Luxembourg, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen), Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone<sup>88</sup> (also on behalf of Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Colombia, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Mozambique, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Zambia and the State of Palestine), Spain, Switzerland, Togo (also on behalf of the Group of African States), Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Canada, Costa Rica, Estonia, Finland, France, India, Ireland, Jordan, Latvia, Libya, Lithuania, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand;

<sup>84</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>85</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>86</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>87</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>88</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

(c) Observer for a United Nations entity, specialized agency and related organization: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);

(d) Observers for national human rights institutions: Independent Human Rights Commission (NHRI Afghanistan) (by video message); Office for the Protection of Citizens (NHRI Haiti);

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: ABC Tamil Oli; Action of Human Movement (AHM); Advocates for Human Rights; Alliance Creative Community Project; Alsalam Foundation; Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc; Amnesty International; Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (also on behalf of CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation; Freedom House and Front Line, The International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders); Association A.M.OR; Association Bharathi Centre Culturel Franco-Tamoul; Association Culturelle des Tamouls en France; Association d'Entraide Médicale Guinée; Association des étudiants tamouls de France; Association of World Citizens; Association pour les Victimes Du Monde; Association Solidarité Internationale pour l'Afrique (SIA); Association Thendral; Baha'i International Community; Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies; Center for Organisation Research and Education; Conseil de jeunesse pluriculturelle (COJEP); Conseil International pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux Droits de l'Homme; Human Rights Now; Human Rights Watch; Indian Council of South America (CISA); Indigenous People of Africa Coordinating Committee; International Buddhist Relief Organisation; International Commission of Jurists; International Federation for Human Rights Leagues; International Fellowship of Reconciliation; International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM); International Lesbian and Gay Association; International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; International-Lawyers.Org; Iraqi Development Organization; IUS PRIMI VIRI International Association; Kham Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture; L'Observatoire Mauritanien des Droits de l'Homme et de la Démocratie; Le Pont; Liberation; Lumos Foundation; Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association; Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational and Transparty; Organization for Defending Victims of Violence; Prahar; Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme; Save the Children International; Society for Development and Community Empowerment; Tamil Uzhagam; Tourner la page; United Nations Watch; VAAGDHARA; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; World Barua Organization (WBO).

1086. At the 52nd meeting, on 22 March 2018, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Cambodia and the Russian Federation.

## **G. Consideration of and action on draft proposals**

### **Technical assistance and capacity-building for Mali in the field of human rights**

1087. At the 56th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representative of Togo, on behalf of States members of the Group of African States, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.14, sponsored by Togo, on behalf of States members of the Group of African States, and co-sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Thailand, Turkey and Ukraine joined the sponsors.

1088. At the same meeting, the representatives of Belgium and Slovakia, on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council, made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

1089. At the same meeting, the representative of Mali made a statement as the State concerned.

1090. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

1091. At the same meeting, the draft resolution, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/39).

### **Cooperation with Georgia**

1092. At the 56th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representative of Georgia introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.43, sponsored by Georgia, and co-sponsored by Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine and the United States of America. Subsequently, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined the sponsors.

1093. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a general comment in relation to the draft resolution.

1094. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

1095. At the same meeting, the representatives of Australia, Brazil, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution.

1096. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Australia, Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Togo, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Against:*

Burundi, China, Cuba, Philippines, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Angola, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Switzerland, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates

1097. The draft resolution was adopted by 19 votes to 5, with 23 abstentions (resolution 37/40).

### **Technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in Libya**

1098. At the 56th meeting, on 23 March 2018, the representative of Togo, on behalf of States members of the Group of African States, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/37/L.45, sponsored by Togo, on behalf of States members of the Group of African States, and co-

sponsored by Italy. Subsequently, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, on behalf of States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined the sponsors.

1099. At the same meeting, the representative of Slovakia, on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council, made a general comment in relation to the draft resolution.

1100. At the same meeting, the representative of Libya made a statement as the State concerned.

1101. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

1102. At the same meeting, the draft resolution, was adopted without a vote (resolution 37/41).

1103. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote and general comments in relation to all draft proposals adopted under agenda item 10.

## Annex I

### Attendance

#### Members

Afghanistan	Germany	Saudi Arabia
Angola	Hungary	Senegal
Australia	Iraq	Slovakia
Belgium	Japan	Slovenia
Brazil	Kenya	South Africa
Burundi	Kyrgyzstan	Spain
Chile	Mexico	Switzerland
China	Mongolia	Togo
Côte d'Ivoire	Nepal	Tunisia
Croatia	Nigeria	Ukraine
Cuba	Pakistan	United Arab Emirates
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Panama	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Ecuador	Peru	United States of America
Egypt	Philippines	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Ethiopia	Qatar	
Georgia	Republic of Korea	
	Rwanda	

#### States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Albania	Cyprus	Jordan
Algeria	Czechia	Kazakhstan
Andorra	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Kuwait
Antigua and Barbuda	Denmark	Lao People's Democratic Republic
Argentina	Djibouti	Latvia
Armenia	El Salvador	Lebanon
Austria	Equatorial Guinea	Lesotho
Azerbaijan	Eritrea	Libya
Bahamas	Estonia	Liechtenstein
Bahrain	Fiji	Lithuania
Bangladesh	Finland	Luxembourg
Belarus	France	Madagascar
Benin	Gabon	Malawi
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Ghana	Malaysia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Greece	Maldives
Botswana	Guatemala	Mali
Bulgaria	Guyana	Malta
Burkina Faso	Haiti	Mauritania
Cambodia	Honduras	Monaco
Cameroon	Iceland	Montenegro
Canada	India	Morocco
Central African Republic	Indonesia	Mozambique
Chad	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Myanmar
Colombia	Ireland	Namibia
Congo	Israel	Netherlands
Costa Rica	Italy	New Zealand
		Niger

Norway	Singapore	Timor-Leste
Oman	Somalia	Turkey
Paraguay	South Sudan	Turkmenistan
Poland	Sri Lanka	Uganda
Portugal	Sudan	United Republic of Tanzania
Republic of Moldova	Swaziland	Uzbekistan
Romania	Sweden	Viet Nam
Russian Federation	Syrian Arab Republic	Yemen
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Tanzania	Zambia
Serbia	Thailand	Zimbabwe
Sierra Leone	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	

### **Non-Member States represented by observers**

Holy See

### **Other observers**

State of Palestine

### **United Nations**

Department of Peacekeeping Operations	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN Women	United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Children's Fund	United Nations Population Fund
United Nations Development Programme	

### **Specialized agencies and related organizations**

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	World Health Organization
International Organization for Migration	
International Telecommunication Union	

### **Intergovernmental organizations**

African Union	European Union
Commonwealth	Cooperation Council for Arab States of the Gulf
Council of Europe	Organization of Islamic Cooperation

### **Other entities**

International Committee of the Red Cross  
International Olympic Committee  
Sovereign Military Order of Malta

### **National human rights institutions, international coordinating committees and regional groups of national institutions**



---

Australian Human Rights Commission (video statement)  
Commission nationale independante des droits de l'homme – Chile  
Commission nationale des droits de l'homme de Mauritanie  
Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice – Ghana  
Conseil national des droits de l'homme Maroc  
Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain (joint video statement)  
Finnish Human Rights Centre  
Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions  
Human Rights Commission – Zambia  
Independent Commission for Human Rights of the State of Palestine (video statement)

Office of the People's Advocate – Albania (video statement)  
National Committee for Human Rights – Qatar  
National Council for Human Rights – Egypt  
National Human Rights Commission of Mexico (video statement)  
National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria  
National Human Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea  
Office for the Protection of Citizens – Haiti  
Procuraduría de los Derechos Humanos de Guatemala  
South African Human Rights Commission

### **Non-governmental organizations**

“Coup de Pousse” Chaîne de l'Espoir Nord-Sud (C.D.P – C.E.N.S)  
ABC Tamil Oli  
Action Canada for Population and Development  
Action contre la faim  
Action for the Protection of Human Rights in Mauritania  
Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs  
Action of Human Movement (AHM)  
Advocates for Human Rights  
Africa Culture Internationale  
African Development Association  
African Regional Agricultural Credit Association  
African-American Society for Humanitarian Aid and Development  
Agence Internationale pour le Développement  
Agir Ensemble pour les Droits de l'Homme  
Al Baraem Association for Charitable Work  
Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights  
Al-Hakim Foundation  
Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man  
Aliran Kesedaran Negara National Consciousness Movement  
Al-khoei Foundation  
Alliance Creative Community Project  
Alliance Defending Freedom  
Alliance Globale contre les Mutilations Génitales Féminines  
Alliance pour la solidarité et le Partage en Afrique – Jeunesse pour Intégration Culturelle et Sociale  
Alsalam Foundation  
American Association of Jurists  
American Bar Association

Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc  
Amnesty International  
Amuta for NGO Responsibility  
Anglican Consultative Council  
Arab Organization for Human Rights  
Article 19 – The International Centre against Censorship  
Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development  
Asian Legal Resource Centre  
Asian-Eurasian Human Rights Forum  
Asociacion Cubana de las Naciones Unidas (Cuban United Nations Association)  
Association “Paix” pour la lutte contre la Contrainte et l'injustice  
Association A.M.O.R  
Association Bharathi Centre Culturel Franco-Tamoul  
Association Culturelle des Tamouls en France  
Association d'Entraide Médicale Guinée  
Association des étudiants tamouls de France  
Association Dunenyo  
Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism  
Association for Integration and sustainable Development in Burundi  
Association for Progressive Communications (APC)  
Association for the Prevention of Torture  
Association for the Protection of Women and Children's Rights (APWCR)  
Association Internationale pour l'égalité des femmes  
Association mauritanienne pour la promotion des droits de l'homme

Association Mauritanienne pour la promotion du droit	Commission to Study the Organization of Peace
Association Miraisme International	Conectas Direitos Humanos
Association of World Citizens	Conseil de jeunesse pluriculturelle (COJEP)
Association pour les Victimes Du Monde	Conselho Indigenista Missionário CIMI
Association Solidarité Internationale pour l'Afrique (SIA)	Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations
Association Thendral	Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience
Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII	Corporacion para la Defensa y Promocion de los Derechos Humanos Reiniciar
Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Resource Rights	Corporate Accountability International
Baha'i International Community	Defence for Children International
B'nai B'rith	Dominicans for Justice and Peace – Order of Preachers
British Humanist Association	DRCNet Foundation, Inc.
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies	Drepavie
Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace	Earthjustice
Canners International Permanent Committee	East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project
Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities)	Ecumenical Alliance for Human Rights and Development (EAHRD)
Center for Economic and Social Rights, The	Ecumenical Federation of Constantinopolitans
Center for Environmental and Management Studies	Edmund Rice International Limited
Center for Global Nonkilling	Egyptian Organization for Human Rights
Center for Inquiry	Ensemble contre la Peine de Mort
Center for International Human Rights	Espace Afrique International
Center for Organisation Research and Education	European Centre for Law and Justice, The / Centre Europeen pour le droit, les Justice et les droits de l'homme
Center for Reproductive Rights, Inc., The	European Union of Jewish Students
Centre Europe - Tiers Monde – Europe - Third World Centre	European Union of Public Relations
Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy	Family Health Association of Iran
Centre indépendant de recherches et d'initiatives pour le dialogue	Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigen tot Integratie van Homoseksualiteit COC Nederland
Centre pour les Droits Civils et Politiques – Centre CCPR	FIAN International e.V.
Centro des Promocion y Defensa de los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos	Fondation d'Auteuil
Chant du Guépard dans le Désert	Fondation pour l'étude des relations internationales et du développement
Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims	Forum Azzahrae pour la Femme Marocaine
Child Development Foundation	Foundation ECPAT International (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes)
Child Foundation	Foundation for GAIA
China Society for Human Rights Studies (CSHRS)	Foundation of Japanese Honorary Debts
Chinese Association for International Understanding	France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand
Christian Solidarity Worldwide	Franciscans International
CIVICUS – World Alliance for Citizen Participation	Friedrich Ebert Foundation
Colombian Commission of Jurists	Friends of the Earth International
Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, Asociación Civil	Friends World Committee for Consultation
Comision Unidos Vd Trata	Fundacion Vida - Grupo Ecologico Verde
Comité International pour le Respect et l'Application de la Charte Africaine des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples (CIRAC)	Fundalatin
Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches	Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue
	Geneva for Human Rights – Global Training
	Geneva Institute for Human Rights (GIHR)

Geo Expertise Association  
 Global Action on Aging  
 Global Hope Network International  
 Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health  
 Global Policy Forum  
 Graduate Women International (GWI)  
 Greenpeace International  
 Habitat International Coalition  
 HelpAge International  
 Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights  
 Heritage Foundation, The  
 Himalayan Research and Cultural Foundation  
 Human Rights Advocates, Inc.  
 Human Rights Association for Community  
 Human Rights Council of Australia, Inc.  
 Human Rights House Foundation  
 Human Rights Law Centre  
 Human Rights Now  
 Human Rights Watch  
 Human Security Initiative Organization  
 Il Cenacolo  
 Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society  
 Indian Council of Education  
 Indian Council of South America (CISA)  
 Indian Movement Tupaj Amaru  
 Indigenist Missionary Council  
 Indigenous People of Africa Coordinating Committee  
 Initiative d'opposition contre les discours extrémistes  
 Initiatives of Change International  
 Institut de Drets Humans de Catalunya  
 Institute for Planetary Synthesis  
 Institute for Policy Studies  
 International Association for Democracy in Africa  
 International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL)  
 International Bar Association  
 International Bridges to Justice, Inc.  
 International Buddhist Relief Organisation  
 International Career Support Association  
 International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (INCPL)  
 International Commission of Jurists  
 International Council of Russian Compatriots (ICRC)  
 International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights  
 International Doctors for Healthier Drug Policies CIC  
 International Educational Development, Inc.  
 International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (FIDH)  
 International Federation for the Protection of the Rights of Ethnic, Religious, Linguistic & Other Minorities  
 International Federation of Acat (Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture)  
 International Federation of Journalists  
 International Fellowship of Reconciliation  
 International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM)  
 International Humanist and Ethical Union  
 International Institute for Non-Aligned Studies  
 International Lesbian and Gay Association  
 International Longevity Center Global Alliance, Ltd.  
 International Movement against all Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR)  
 International Movement ATD Fourth World  
 International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples  
 International Muslim Women's Union  
 International Organization for the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination  
 International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (OIDEI)  
 International Organization of Employers  
 International Pen  
 International Planned Parenthood Federation  
 International Service for Human Rights  
 International Trade Union Confederation  
 International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development – VIDES  
 International Women Bond  
 International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations  
 International-Lawyers.Org  
 Iranian Elite Research Center  
 Iraqi Development Organization  
 Islamic Women's Institute of Iran  
 Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco  
 IT for Change  
 IUS PRIMI VIRI International Association  
 Iuventum e.v.  
 Japan Federation of Bar Associations (video statement)  
 Japanese Workers' Committee for Human Rights  
 Jossour Forum des Femmes Marocaines  
 Jssor Youth Organization  
 Jubilee Campaign  
 Kejibaus Youth Development Initiative  
 Kham Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture  
 Kirkon Ulkomaanavun Säätiö  
 La Manif pour Tous

---

Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Centre	Réseau Unité pour le Développement de Mauritanie
Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada	Roads of Success
Le Pont	Russian Peace Foundation
Liberation	Save a Child's Heart in Memory of Dr. Ami Cohen
L'Observatoire Mauritanien des Droits de l'Homme et de la Démocratie	Save the Children International
Lumos Foundation	Servas International
Lutheran World Federation	Sikh Human Rights Group
Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development	Social Service Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany
Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association	Society for Development and Community Empowerment
Maher	Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Make Mothers Matter International	Society for Threatened Peoples
Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association	Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development of Environment
Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP)	Soka Gakkai International
Meezaan Center for Human Rights	Solidarité Suisse-Guinée
Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life Inc. Education Fund	Soroptimist International
Minority Rights Group	Stichting International Center for Ethnobotanical Education, Research & Service
Nagorik Uddyog	Stichting War Child
National Coordinator for Human Rights	Sudanese Women Parliamentarians Caucus
NGO Coordination post Beijing Switzerland	Swedish Association for Sexuality Education
Noble Institution for Environmental Peace Inc.	Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund
Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational and Transparty	Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression
Norwegian Refugee Council	Tamil Uzhagam
Nouveaux droits de l'homme (NDH)	Tchad – Agir pour l'Environnement
Oidhaco, Bureau International des Droits Humains – Action Colombie	Terre des Hommes Fédération Internationale
Organisation Marocaine des Droits Humains	The Equal Rights Trust
Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale OCAPROCE Internationale	The International Organisation for LDCs
Organization for Defending Victims of Violence	The Mary Robinson Foundation
Oxfam GB	The Next Century Foundation
Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms "MADA"	The Society for Recovery Support
Palestinian Return Centre	Tides Center
Pan African Union for Science and Technology	Tourner la Page
Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation	Touro Law Center, The Institute on Human Rights and The Holocaust
Pax Christi International	Unesco Centre Basque Country (Unesco Etxea)
Peace Brigades International Switzerland	Unesco Centre of Catalonia
People for Successful Corean Reunification	Union of Arab Jurists
Plan International, Inc.	United Nations Watch
Prahar	United Schools International
Prajachaitanya Yuvajana Sangam	United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation
Presse Emblème Campagne	UPR Info
Prevention Association of Social Harms (PASH)	VAAGDHARA
Privacy International	Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik
Public Organization "Public Advocacy"	Villages Unis (United Villages)
Rencontre africain pour la défense des droits de l'homme	VIVAT International
Réseau International des Droits Humains (RIDH)	Women's Federation for World Peace International
	Women's Human Rights International Association

Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling  
Women's International League for Peace and  
Freedom  
World Barua Organization  
World Council of Arameans (Syriacs)  
World Council of Churches  
World Environment and Resources Council  
(WERC)

World Evangelical Alliance  
World Jewish Congress  
World Medical Association  
World Organization against Torture  
Young Heart Foundation  
Zonta International

## Annex II

### Agenda

- Item 1. Organizational and procedural matters
- Item 2. Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General
- Item 3. Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development
- Item 4. Human rights situations that require the Council's attention
- Item 5. Human rights bodies and mechanisms
- Item 6. Universal periodic review
- Item 7. Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories
- Item 8. Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action
- Item 9. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
- Item 10. Technical assistance and capacity-building

## Annex III

### Documents issued for the thirty-seventh session

*Documents issued in the general series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/1	1 Agenda and annotations
A/HRC/37/2	1 Report of the Human Rights Council on its thirty-seventh session
A/HRC/37/3	2 Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/37/3/Add.1	2 Addendum - Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the activities of his office in Guatemala
A/HRC/37/3/Add.2	2 Addendum - Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Honduras
A/HRC/37/3/Add.3	2 Addendum - Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Colombia
A/HRC/37/4	6 Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Czechia
A/HRC/37/4/Add.1	6 Addendum
A/HRC/37/5	6 Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Argentina
A/HRC/37/5/Add.1	6 Addendum
A/HRC/37/6	6 Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Gabon
A/HRC/37/6/Add.1	6 Addendum - Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State
A/HRC/37/7	6 Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Ghana
A/HRC/37/7/Add.1	6 Addendum
A/HRC/37/8	6 Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Peru
A/HRC/37/8/Add.1	6 Addendum
A/HRC/37/9	6 Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Guatemala

*Documents issued in the general series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/9/Add.1	6 Addendum
A/HRC/37/10	6 Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Benin
A/HRC/37/11	6 Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Republic of Korea
A/HRC/37/11/Add.1	6 Addendum
A/HRC/37/12	6 Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Switzerland
A/HRC/37/12/Add.1	6 Addendum
A/HRC/37/13	6 Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Pakistan
A/HRC/37/13/Add.1	6 Addendum
A/HRC/37/14	6 Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Zambia
A/HRC/37/14/Add.1	6 Addendum - Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State
A/HRC/37/15	6 Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Japan
A/HRC/37/15/Add.1	6 Addendum
A/HRC/37/16	6 Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Ukraine
A/HRC/37/16/Add.1	6 Addendum
A/HRC/37/17	6 Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Sri Lanka
A/HRC/37/18	2, 3 Report of the Secretary-General on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity: note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/37/19	2 Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: note by the Secretary-General
A/HRC/37/20	2 United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture: report of the Secretary-General
A/HRC/37/21	2 Measures taken to implement Human Rights Council resolution 9/8 and obstacles to its implementation, including recommendations for further improving the effectiveness of, harmonizing and reforming the treaty body system: report of the Secretary-General



*Documents issued in the general series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/22	2 Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the question of human rights in Cyprus
A/HRC/37/23	2 Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Sri Lanka
A/HRC/37/24	2 Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Iran
A/HRC/37/25	2, 3 Right to access to justice under article 13 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/37/26	2, 3 Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities: annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/37/27	2, 3 Summary of the discussions held during the seminar entitled “Exchanging national experiences and practices on the implementation of effective safeguards to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment during police custody and pretrial detention”: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/37/28	2, 3 Summary report on the panel discussion of the impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence in the context of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/37/29	2, 3 Intersessional seminar on cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/37/30	2, 3 Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights: report of the Secretary-General on the role of economic, social and cultural rights in building sustainable and resilient societies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
A/HRC/37/31	2, 3 Summary of the biennial Human Rights Council panel discussion on unilateral coercive measures and human rights: report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

*Documents issued in the general series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/32	2, 3 Realization of the right to work: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/37/33	2, 3 Protecting the rights of the child in humanitarian situations: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/37/34	2, 3 Principles and practical guidance on the protection of the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situations: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/37/34/Add.1	2, 3 Addendum
A/HRC/37/35	2, 3 Summary of the panel discussion on human rights, climate change, migrants and persons displaced across international borders: report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/37/36	2, 3 Summary of the annual full-day of discussion on women's human rights: report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/37/37	2, 5 Report on the twenty-fourth annual meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, independent experts and working groups of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (26-30 June 2017), including updated information on the special procedures
A/HRC/37/37/Add.1	2, 5 Facts and figures with regard to the special procedures in 2017
A/HRC/37/38	7 Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of Human Rights Council resolutions S-9/1 and S-12/1
A/HRC/37/39	7 Database of all business enterprises involved in the activities detailed in paragraph 96 of the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/37/40	7 Report of the Secretary-General on the human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan
A/HRC/37/41	7 Ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem:

*Documents issued in the general series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
	report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/37/42	7 Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/37/43	7 Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/37/44	2, 9 Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/37/45	2, 10 Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan and on the achievements of technical assistance in the field of human rights
A/HRC/37/46	2, 10 Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Libya, including on the effectiveness of technical assistance and capacity-building measures received by the Government of Libya
A/HRC/37/47	3 Annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
A/HRC/37/48	3 Annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children
A/HRC/37/49	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief
A/HRC/37/49/Add.1	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief on his mission to Albania
A/HRC/37/49/Add.2	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief on his mission to Uzbekistan
A/HRC/37/49/Add.3	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Ahmed Shaheed on his mission to Albania: comments by State
A/HRC/37/49/Add.4	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion and belief, Ahmed Shaheed on his mission to Uzbekistan: comments by State
A/HRC/37/50	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of punishment

*Documents issued in the general series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/50/Add.1	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment on his mission to Turkey
A/HRC/37/50/Add.2	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment on his mission to Turkey: comments by the State
A/HRC/37/51	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders
A/HRC/37/51/Add.1	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders: observations on communications transmitted to Governments and replies received
A/HRC/37/51/Add.2	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders on his mission to Mexico
A/HRC/37/51/Add.3	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders on his mission to Australia
A/HRC/37/51/Add.4	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders on his mission to Mexico: comments by the State
A/HRC/37/52	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism
A/HRC/37/53	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context
A/HRC/37/53/Add.1	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context on her mission to Chile
A/HRC/37/54	3 Report of the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights: Development of guiding principles for assessing the human rights impact of economic reform policies: note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/37/54/Add.1	3 Report of the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights on his mission to Tunisia

*Documents issued in the general series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/54/Add.2	3 Report of the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights on his mission to Panama
A/HRC/37/54/Add.3	3 Report of the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights on his mission to Switzerland
A/HRC/37/54/Add.4	3 Report of the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights on his mission to Tunisia: comments by the State
A/HRC/37/55	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights
A/HRC/37/55/Add.1	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights on her mission to Serbia and Kosovo
A/HRC/37/55/Add.2	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights on her mission to Serbia and Kosovo: comments by the State
A/HRC/37/56	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities
A/HRC/37/56/Add.1	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on her mission to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
A/HRC/37/56/Add.2	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on her mission to Kazakhstan
A/HRC/37/56/Add.3	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on her mission to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea: comments by State
A/HRC/37/56/Add.4	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on her mission to Kazakhstan: comments by the State
A/HRC/37/57	3 Report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism
A/HRC/37/57/Add.1	3 Report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism on her mission to the United Republic of Tanzania

*Documents issued in the general series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/57/Add.2	3 Report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism on the expert workshop on witchcraft and human rights
A/HRC/37/57/Add.3	3 Report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism on the Regional Action Plan on Albinism in Africa (2017–2021)
A/HRC/37/58	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment
A/HRC/37/58/Add.1	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment on his mission to Uruguay
A/HRC/37/58/Add.2	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment on his mission to Mongolia
A/HRC/37/59	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment on the expert seminar on best practices, lessons learned and the way forward with regard to human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment
A/HRC/37/60	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material
A/HRC/37/60/Add.1	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material on her mission to the Dominican Republic
A/HRC/37/61	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food
A/HRC/37/61/Add.1	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food on her mission to Zambia
A/HRC/37/62	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy
A/HRC/37/63	3 Report of the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order
A/HRC/37/64	3 Report of the Secretary-General on the role and achievements of the Office of the United Nations

*Documents issued in the general series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
	High Commissioner for Human rights in assisting the Government and the people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights
A/HRC/37/65	3 Study on the contribution of transitional justice to the prevention of gross violations and abuses of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law, including genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, and their recurrence: joint report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence and the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide
A/HRC/37/66	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues
A/HRC/37/67	3 Report on the third session of the open-ended intergovernmental Working Group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights
A/HRC/37/68	4 Note by the Secretariat: report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran
A/HRC/37/68/Add.1	4 Note by the Secretariat: report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran: Comments by State
A/HRC/37/69	4 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
A/HRC/37/70	4 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar
A/HRC/37/71	4 Report of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan
A/HRC/37/72	4 Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic
A/HRC/37/73	5 Recommendations of the Forum on Minority Issues at its tenth session
A/HRC/37/74	5 Report of the 2017 Social Forum (Geneva, 2-4 October 2017)
A/HRC/37/75	7 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967
A/HRC/37/76	9 Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the elaboration of complementary standards on the ninth session

*Documents issued in the general series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
A/HRC/37/77	9	Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action on its fifteenth session
A/HRC/37/78	10	Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali
A/HRC/37/79	10	Report of the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights
A/HRC/37/80	3, 4, 7, 9, 10	Communications report of Special Procedures
A/HRC/37/80/Corr.1	3, 4, 7, 9, 10	Corrigendum
A/HRC/37/81	2	Conclusions and recommendations of special procedures: report of the Secretary-General

*Documents issued in the conference room papers series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
A/HRC/37/CRP.1	10	Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine
A/HRC/37/CRP.2	4	Report of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan
A/HRC/37/CRP.3	4	"I lost my dignity": Sexual and gender-based violence in the Syrian Arab Republic
A/HRC/37/CRP.4	2, 3	The slow onset effects of climate change and human rights protection for cross-border migrants

*Documents issued in the limited series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
A/HRC/37/L.1	2	The deteriorating situation of human rights in Eastern Ghouta, in the Syrian Arab Republic
A/HRC/37/L.2	1	Amendment to draft resolution L.1
A/HRC/37/L.3	1	Idem
A/HRC/37/L.4	1	Idem
A/HRC/37/L.5	1	Idem
A/HRC/37/L.6	1	Idem
A/HRC/37/L.7	1	Idem



*Documents issued in the limited series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/L.8	1 Idem
A/HRC/37/L.9	1 Idem
A/HRC/37/L.10	3 The right to privacy in the digital age
A/HRC/37/L.11/Rev.1	3 Integrity of the judicial system
A/HRC/37/L.12	3 Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and the right to non-discrimination in this context
A/HRC/37/L.13	3 Mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism
A/HRC/37/L.14	10 Technical assistance and capacity-building for Mali in the field of human rights
A/HRC/37/L.15	3 The role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights
A/HRC/37/L.16	3 Promoting human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals through transparent, accountable and efficient public services delivery
A/HRC/37/L.17	9 Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief
A/HRC/37/L.18	7 Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan
A/HRC/37/L.19	3 Human rights and the environment
A/HRC/37/L.20	3 Freedom of religion or belief
A/HRC/37/L.21	3 The right to food
A/HRC/37/L.22	3 The effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights
A/HRC/37/L.23	3 Mandate of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights
A/HRC/37/L.24	3 Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights
A/HRC/37/L.25	3 Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities
A/HRC/37/L.26	3 High-level intersessional discussion celebrating the centenary of Nelson Mandela
A/HRC/37/L.27	10 Cooperation with Georgia
A/HRC/37/L.28	3 Right to work

*Documents issued in the limited series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/L.29	4 Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
A/HRC/37/L.30	3 Cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage
A/HRC/37/L.31	3 Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal
A/HRC/37/L.32	3 The negative impact of corruption on the right to be free from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
A/HRC/37/L.33	3 Rights of the child: protection of the rights of the child in humanitarian situations
A/HRC/37/L.34	3 Human rights and unilateral coercive measures
A/HRC/37/L.35	3 Equality and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities and the right of persons with disabilities to access to justice
A/HRC/37/L.36	3 Promoting mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of human rights
A/HRC/37/L.37	3 Promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
A/HRC/37/L.38	4 The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic
A/HRC/37/L.39	4 Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran
A/HRC/37/L.40	4 Situation of human rights in South Sudan
A/HRC/37/L.41	3 Contribution to the implementation of the joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem with regard to human rights
A/HRC/37/L.42	3 The need for an integrated approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the full realization of human rights, focusing on all the means of implementation
A/HRC/37/L.43	4 Situation of human rights in Myanmar
A/HRC/37/L.44	3 Prevention of genocide
A/HRC/37/L.45	10 Technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in Libya
A/HRC/37/L.46	7 Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination
A/HRC/37/L.47	7 Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

*Documents issued in the limited series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/L.48	7 Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan
A/HRC/37/L.49	7 Ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem
A/HRC/37/L.50/Rev.1	3 Terrorism and human rights
A/HRC/37/L.51	3 Amendment to the draft resolution L.44
A/HRC/37/L.52	3 Idem
A/HRC/37/L.53	3 Idem
A/HRC/37/L.54	3 Idem
A/HRC/37/L.55	3 Idem
A/HRC/37/L.56	3 Idem
A/HRC/37/L.57	3 Idem
A/HRC/37/L.58	3 Amendment to the draft resolution L.41
A/HRC/37/L.59	3 Idem
A/HRC/37/L.60	4 Amendment to the draft resolution L.38
A/HRC/37/L.61	3 Amendment to the draft resolution L.41
A/HRC/37/L.62	3 Idem
A/HRC/37/L.63	3 Amendment to the draft resolution L.50/Rev.1

*Documents issued in the Government series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/G/1	2 Letter dated 30 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva addressed to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/37/G/2	4 Note verbale dated 19 February 2018 from the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/37/G/3	4 Letter dated 26 February 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council

*Documents issued in the Government series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/G/4	4 Letter dated 9 March 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires, a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council
A/HRC/37/G/5	3 Letter dated 19 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council
A/HRC/37/G/6	3 Note verbale dated 29 March 2018 from the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/37/G/7	1 Note verbale dated 27 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/37/G/8	2 Note verbale dated 26 April 2018 from the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

*Documents issued in the national institutions series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/NI/1	6 Written submission by the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines
A/HRC/37/NI/2	3 Written submission by the National Human Rights Council of Morocco
A/HRC/37/NI/3	3 Written submission by the National Human Rights Institution and Office of the Ombudsperson of Uruguay
A/HRC/37/NI/4	3 Written submission by the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance of Tanzania
A/HRC/37/NI/5	2 Written submission by the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines
A/HRC/37/NI/6	6 Written submission by the National Human Rights Commission of Korea

*Documents issued in the national institutions series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/NI/7	6 Written submission by the Human Rights Commission of Zambia
A/HRC/37/NI/8	9 Joint written submission by the Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Scottish Human Rights Commission

*Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/NGO/1	4 Written statement submitted by Terre Des Hommes Federation Internationale, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/2	3 Written statement submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/3	10 Written statement submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/4	3 Written statement submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/5	2 Written statement submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/6	7 Written statement submitted by Palestinian Return Centre Ltd, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/7	4 Written statement submitted by Palestinian Return Centre Ltd, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/8	4 Written statement submitted by Palestinian Return Centre Ltd, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

*Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/NGO/9	3 Written statement submitted by the World Muslim Congress, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/10	4 Exposé écrit présenté par l'Agence pour les droits de l'homme, organisation non gouvernementale dotée du statut consultatif spécial
A/HRC/37/NGO/11	10 Written statement submitted by Agence pour les droits de l'homme, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/12	4 Written statement submitted by Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/13	4 Written statement submitted by Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain, Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/14	4 Written statement submitted by Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain, Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/15	4 Written statement submitted by Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain, Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/16	4 Written statement submitted by Coordination des associations et des particuliers pour la liberté de conscience, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/17	3 Written statement submitted by Cercle de recherche sur les droits et les devoirs de la personne humaine, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/18	3 Written statement submitted by the World Muslim Congress, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/19	4 Written statement submitted by the World Muslim Congress, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/20	4 Written statement submitted by the Kham Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, non-governmental organization in special consultative status

*Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/NGO/21	3 Written statement submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/22	4 Written statement submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/23	6 Written statement submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/24	7 Written statement submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/25	9 Written statement submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/26	8 Written statement submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/27	3 Written statement submitted by the Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/28	4 Written statement submitted by the Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/29	3 Written statement submitted by the Kham Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/30	3 Written statement submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/31	3 Written statement submitted by the Association of Citizens Civil Rights Protection “Manshour-e Parseh”, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

*Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/NGO/32	3 Joint written statement submitted by Make Mothers Matter - MMM, New Humanity, and ONG Hope International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status; the International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (OIDEF), Association Points-Coeur, Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, the Catholic International Education Office, the Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, the Foundation for GAIA, the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development – VIDES, Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco, the Lazarus Union, the Planetary Association for Clean Energy, Inc., and the Teresian Association, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status; and Soka Gakkai International, a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/37/NGO/33	6 Written statement submitted by the public organization “Public Advocacy”, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/34	3 Written statement submitted by the Islamic Women’s Institute of Iran, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/35	3 Written statement submitted by Chant du guépard dans le désert, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/36	4 Written statement submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/37	6 Exposé écrit présenté conjointement par Franciscans International, organisation non gouvernementale dotée du statut consultatif général ; et International Catholic Child Bureau, Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development - VIDES, Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco et Mouvement international d’apostolat des milieux sociaux indépendants, organisations non gouvernementales dotées du statut consultatif spécial



*Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/NGO/38	3 Written statement submitted by Asociación Española para el Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos (AEDIDH), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/39	7 Written statement submitted by the public organization “Public Advocacy”, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/40	6 Written statement submitted by the public organization “Public Advocacy”, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/41	3 Written statement submitted by the Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/42	4 Written statement submitted by the Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/43	3 Written statement submitted by the Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, a non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/44	3 Written statement submitted by the Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/45	3 Written statement submitted by the Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/46	4 Written statement submitted by the Family Health Association of Iran, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/47	3 Written statement submitted by the Family Health Association of Iran, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

*Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/NGO/48	3 Written statement submitted by the Family Health Association of Iran, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/49	3 Written statement submitted by the International Commission of Jurists, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/50	3 Written statement submitted by Human Rights Advocates, Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/51	3 Written statement submitted by Human Rights Advocates Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/52	3 Written statement submitted by the Modern Advocacy, Humanitarian, Social and Rehabilitation Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/53	4 Written statement submitted by the Kham Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/54	3 Written statement submitted by the Kham Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/55	3 Written statement submitted by the Kham Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/56	3 Written statement submitted by the Kham Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/57	3 Written statement submitted by Association Miraisme International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/58	3 Written statement submitted by the European Centre for Law and Justice / Centre Européen pour la justice et les droits de l'homme, a non-

*Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
	governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/59	4 Written statement submitted by the European Centre for Law and Justice, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/60	6 Written statement submitted by the European Centre for Law and Justice, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/61	6 Written statement submitted by the public organization "Public Advocacy", a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/62	4 Written statement submitted by Christian Solidarity Worldwide, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/63	3 Written statement submitted by Christian Solidarity Worldwide, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/64	3 Written statement submitted by Child Rights Connect, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/65	3 Written statement submitted by Human Rights Advocates Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/66	6 Written statement submitted by the Japanese Association for the Right to Freedom of Speech, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/67	4 Written statement submitted by International Educational Development, Inc., non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/37/NGO/68	4 Written statement submitted by the Child Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/69	3 Written statement submitted by Human Rights Advocates Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

*Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/NGO/70	3 Written statement submitted by Human Rights Advocates Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/71	3 Written statement submitted by Human Rights Advocates Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/72	3 Written statement submitted by Graduate Women International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/73	3 Written statement submitted by the European Centre for Law and Justice, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/74	3 Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/75	3 Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/76	3 Written statement submitted by Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/77	3 Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/78	6 Written statement submitted by Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/79	4 Written statement submitted by the International Career Support Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/80	3 Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/81	3 Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status

*Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/NGO/82	4 Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status, and ODHIKAR – Coalition for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/83	3 Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/84	3 Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/85	7 Written statement submitted by the Association for Progressive Communications, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/86	3 Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/87	3 Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/88	4 Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/89	3 Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/90	2 Written statement submitted by the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/91	3 Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/92	3 Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/93	3 Written statement submitted by the International Bar Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

*Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/NGO/94	1 Written statement submitted by the International Bar Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/95	4 Written statement submitted by Coordination des associations et des particuliers pour la liberté de conscience, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/96	3 Exposé écrit présenté par le Centre européen pour la justice et les droits de l'homme, organisation non gouvernementale dotée du statut consultatif special
A/HRC/37/NGO/97	2 Written statement submitted by the Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/98	7 Joint written statement submitted by Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights and the World Organisation against Torture, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/99	7 Joint written statement submitted by Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man and the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/100	2 Written statement submitted by Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/101	7 Written statement submitted by the BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/102	3 Written statement submitted by Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/103	3 Written statement submitted by Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/104	3 Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

*Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/NGO/105	7 Written statement submitted by United Nations Watch, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/106	7 Written statement submitted by United Nations Watch, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/107	3 Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/108	4 Written statement submitted by Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/109	10 Exposé écrit présenté conjointement par International Catholic Child Bureau, Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, and le Mouvement International d'Apostolate des Milieux Sociaux Independants, organisations non gouvernementales dotées du statut consultatif spécial
A/HRC/37/NGO/110	3 Written statement submitted by Rencontre Africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/111	7 Written statement submitted by United Nations Watch, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/112	3 Written statement submitted by Rencontre Africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/113	3 Written statement submitted by the Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/114	4 Written statement submitted by the Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/115	7 Joint written statement submitted by Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man, the BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights and the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, non-

*Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
	governmental organizations in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/116	7 Written statement submitted by Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/117	3 Exposé écrit présenté par l'Association nationale de promotion et de protection des droits de l'homme, organisation non gouvernementale dotée du statut consultatif spécial
A/HRC/37/NGO/118	3 Written statement submitted by the Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/119	4 Written statement submitted by Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/120	4 Written statement submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/121	4 Written statement submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/122	4 Written statement submitted by Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/123	10 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status, and International Educational Development, Inc. and the World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/37/NGO/124	3 Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/125	4 Joint written statement submitted by the Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational and Transparty, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status; the Women's Human Rights International Association and France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status; and International Educational Development, Inc. and Mouvement contre le racisme et pour



*Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
	l'amitié entre les peuples, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/37/NGO/126	10 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD), non-governmental organization in special consultative status; International Educational Development, Inc., and the World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/37/NGO/127	4 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD), non-governmental organization in special consultative status; International Educational Development, Inc., and the World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/37/NGO/128	3 Joint written statement submitted by Greenpeace International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status, and the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/129	3 Joint written statement submitted by Greenpeace International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status, and the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/130	4 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status, and International Educational Development, Inc. and the World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/37/NGO/131	4 Written statement submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/132	4 Written statement submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/133	4 Written statement submitted by the Iraqi Development Organization, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

*Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/NGO/134	3 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Arab Organization for Human Rights and IUS PRIMI VIRI International Association, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, and International Educational Development, Inc. and World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/37/NGO/135	4 Written statement submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/136	4 Written statement submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/137	4 Written statement submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/138	9 Written statement submitted by the International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/139	4 Written statement submitted by the Women's Human Rights International Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/140	7 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Arab Lawyers Union, the Arab Organization for Human Rights, International-Lawyers.org, IUS PRIMI VIRI International Association and the Union of Arab Jurists, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, and International Educational Development, Inc. and the World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/37/NGO/141	7 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Arab Lawyers Union, the Arab Organization for Human Rights, International-Lawyers.Org, IUS PRIMI VIRI International Association and the Union of Arab Jurists, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, and International Educational Development, Inc. and the World

*Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
	Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/37/NGO/142	7 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Arab Lawyers Union, the Arab Organization for Human Rights, International-Lawyers.Org, IUS PRIMI VIRI International Association and the Union of Arab Jurists, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, and International Educational Development, Inc. and the World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/37/NGO/143	7 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Arab Lawyers Union, the Arab Organization for Human Rights, International-Lawyers.Org, IUS PRIMI VIRI International Association and the Union of Arab Jurists, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, and International Educational Development, Inc. and the World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/37/NGO/144	4 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Arab Lawyers Union, the Arab Organization for Human Rights, International-Lawyers.Org, IUS PRIMI VIRI International Association and the Union of Arab Jurists, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, and International Educational Development, Inc. and the World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/37/NGO/145	4 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status, and International Educational Development, Inc. and the World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/37/NGO/146	4 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status, and International Educational Development,

*Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
	Inc. and the World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/37/NGO/147	3 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status, and International Educational Development, Inc. and the World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/37/NGO/148	4 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status, and International Educational Development, Inc. and the World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/37/NGO/149	5 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Arab Organization for Human Rights and the Union of Arab Jurists, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, and International Educational Development, Inc. and the World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/37/NGO/150	2 Written statement submitted by the Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/151	2 Written statement submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/152	4 Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/153	3 Written statement submitted by Prahar, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/154	4 Written statement submitted by ODHIKAR – Coalition for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/155	4 Written statement submitted by ODHIKAR – Coalition for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

*Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/NGO/156	4 Written statement submitted by ODHIKAR – Coalition for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/157	3 Written statement submitted by the Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/158	3 Written statement submitted by Human Rights Now, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/159	4 Written statement submitted by Human Rights Now, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/160	3 Written statement submitted by Human Rights Now, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/161	2 Joint written statement submitted by the American Association of Jurists, Asociación Española para el Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos, France Libertés : Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, and Paz y Cooperación, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, and Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/37/NGO/162	3 Written statement submitted by Human Rights Now, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/163	3 Written statement submitted by Liberal International (World Liberal Union), a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/164	3 Joint written statement submitted by International-Lawyers.Org, the Arab Organization for Human Rights and the Union of Arab Jurists, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, and International Educational Development, Inc. and the World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/37/NGO/165	4 Joint written statement submitted by International-Lawyers.Org, the Arab Organization for Human Rights and the Union of Arab Jurists, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, and International Educational Development,

*Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
	Inc. and the World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/37/NGO/166	5 Written statement submitted by the Islamic Women's Institute of Iran, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/167	4 Written statement submitted by the International Humanist and Ethical Union, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/168	4 Written statement submitted by the International Humanist and Ethical Union, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/169	9 Written statement submitted by Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/170	2 Written statement submitted by Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/171	3 Written statement submitted by Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/172	8 Written statement submitted by Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/173	4 Written statement submitted by Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/174	3 Written statement submitted by Make Mothers Matter, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/175	10 Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/176	4 Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/177	4 Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

*Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/NGO/178	4 Written statement submitted by Nazra for Feminist Studies, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/179	10 Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/180	4 Joint written statement submitted by Association bharathi centre culturel franco-tamoul, ABC Tamil Oli, Alliance Creative Community Project, Association burkinabé pour la survie de l'enfance, Association culturelle des tamouls en France, Association des étudiants tamouls de France, Association Mauritanienne pour la promotion du droit, Association pour les victimes du monde, Association solidarité internationale pour l'Afrique, Association Thendral, Le Pont, Observatoire mauritanien des droits de l'homme et de la démocratie, the Society for Development and Community Empowerment, Tamil Uzhagam and Tourner la page, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/181	4 Written statement submitted by People for Successful Corean Reunification, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/182	6 Written statement submitted by the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/183	3 Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/184	4 Written statement submitted by the Child Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/185	10 Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/186	3 Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/187	4 Written statement submitted by the Human Rights League of the Horn of Africa, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

*Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/37/NGO/188	3 Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/189	2 Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/190	3 Written statement submitted by Amuta for NGO Responsibility, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/191	3 Written statement submitted by Amuta for NGO Responsibility, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/192	7 Written statement submitted by Amuta for NGO Responsibility, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/193	7 Written statement submitted by Amuta for NGO Responsibility, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/194	3 Written statement submitted by Verein Südwind Entwicklungspolitik, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/196	3 Written statement submitted by Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/197	3 Written statement submitted by IT for Change, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/198	3 Written statement submitted by the Next Century Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/199	3 Written statement submitted by the Next Century Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/200	2 Written statement submitted by Action contre la faim, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/37/NGO/201	10 Exposé écrit présenté par United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, organisation non gouvernementale dotée du statut consultatif special



---

## Annex IV

### **Special procedures mandate holders appointed by the Human Rights Council at its thirty-seventh session**

**Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) (member from African States)**

Albert Kwokwo Barume (the Democratic Republic of the Congo)

**Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) (member from North America)**

Kristen Carpenter (the United States of America)

**Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order**

Livingstone Sewanyana (Uganda)

**Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali**

Alioune Tine (Senegal)

**Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence**

Fabián Salvioli (Argentina)

**Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association**

Nyaletsossi Clément Voule (Togo)

**Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, (member from African States)**

Chris Kwaja (Nigeria)

**Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (member from Eastern European States)**

Jelena Aparac (Croatia)

**Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, (member from Latin American and Caribbean States)**

Lilian Bobea (the Dominican Republic)

---