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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Benin

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



Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its forty-second session from 23 January to 3 February 2023. The review of Benin was held at the 7th meeting, on 26 January 2023. The delegation of Benin was headed by the Minister of Justice and Legislation, Sévérin Maxime Quenum. At its 15th meeting, held on 1 February 2023, the Working Group adopted the report on Benin.
2. On 11 January 2023, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Benin: Kazakhstan, Lithuania and Somalia.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Benin:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);¹
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);²
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).³
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama, Portugal, on behalf on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Benin through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the delegation of Benin reaffirmed his country's commitment to human rights and highlighted the progress the Government had made in implementing the 191 recommendations accepted during the previous cycle of the universal periodic review, grouped under the following three goals: consolidating democracy, the rule of law and good governance; encouraging domestic economic growth; and improving the living conditions and social well-being of the people of Benin.
6. The head of the delegation stressed that the Government cooperated fully with the special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council and the human rights treaty bodies. Each year since its establishment in 2019, the Benin Human Rights Commission had published an entirely independent ad hoc report on the human rights situation in the country.
7. The head of the delegation stated that Benin sought to ensure that all its citizens enjoyed the basic rights to water, electricity, education, housing and high-quality health care. To that end, Benin had taken several steps to promote good governance and step up its efforts to combat corruption, including by setting up the Court for the Prevention of Financial Offences and Terrorism.
8. Benin had made significant progress with respect to economic, social and cultural rights. The delegation pointed, for example, to the increased access to basic health care and drinking water, the better educational opportunities and the improved working conditions for teachers and learners. The school canteen programme, which had served more than a million schoolchildren, had helped students stay in school. In several communes, free education for

¹ [A/HRC/WG.6/42/BEN/1](#).

² [A/HRC/WG.6/42/BEN/2](#).

³ [A/HRC/WG.6/42/BEN/3](#).

girls had been extended to the upper secondary level. Since 2016, Benin had implemented a large-scale programme for the construction of social housing and developed a programme to bring young people into the workforce. To increase purchasing power, the Government had raised wages, including the guaranteed minimum interprofessional wage, which had gone up by 30 per cent.

9. Under Act No. 2020-08 of 23 April 2020, Benin had made the justice system more accessible and reduced the time needed for court proceedings. A corps of inspectors had been established to monitor the courts, three new courts of first instance had been set up and 300 new judicial officers had been hired, measures that had helped improve the administration of justice.

10. The Government had taken several steps to reduce prison overcrowding, promote social reintegration and safeguard prisoners' human rights.

11. Benin had adopted several legislative measures to follow up on the recommendations that had been made during the previous review. Those measures abolished the death penalty, defined torture as an offence subject to no statute of limitations, strengthened efforts to fight gender-based violence and made it easier to obtain an abortion.

12. Benin had eliminated all provisions that discriminated against women from its Nationality Code, intensified its efforts to fight violence against women, including genital mutilation, early or forced marriage and sexual harassment, and promoted women's political, economic and social self-empowerment.

13. The head of the delegation of Benin highlighted the adoption of Act No. 2019-40 of 7 November 2019 amending the Constitution. As a result of the amendments, the death penalty was abolished, positive discrimination to help women win election to office was introduced, the position of the opposition was strengthened, provision was made for public financing of political parties and term limits for the President and members of the parliament were strengthened. The head of the delegation also highlighted the adoption of the new Electoral Code, which had made it possible to hold peaceful, inclusive and transparent legislative elections in January 2023 that had resulted in the opposition's obtaining 25 per cent of seats.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

14. During the interactive dialogue, 99 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

15. Mali commended Benin for abolishing the death penalty and improving access to justice and prisoners' social reintegration.

16. Malta commended Benin on its ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

17. Mauritania commended Benin for its reforms in the areas of the rule of law, good governance, respect for human rights and sustainable development.

18. Mexico congratulated Benin on its constitutional reform abolishing the death penalty.

19. Montenegro welcomed the amendments to the Constitution criminalizing torture and abolishing the death penalty.

20. Morocco welcomed the efforts of Benin to harmonize national laws with international standards and to fulfil its international obligations.

21. Namibia commended Benin for the ratification, in 2019, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

22. Nepal welcomed the efforts of Benin to enshrine the abolition of the death penalty in its Constitution.

23. The Kingdom of the Netherlands welcomed the adoption by the Government of Benin of Acts No. 2021-11 and No. 2021-12.
24. The Niger welcomed the consolidation by Benin of the rule of law, good governance, respect for human rights and sustainable development.
25. Nigeria commended Benin on its efforts to strengthen legal frameworks, including to ensure increased access to justice.
26. Pakistan welcomed the measures Benin had taken to further promote human rights, noting the adoption of significant policies and action plans.
27. Panama welcomed the delegation of Benin and made recommendations.
28. Paraguay noted the efforts of Benin to combat discrimination against women and its abolition of the death penalty.
29. Portugal welcomed the abolition by Benin of the death penalty and its adoption of several initiatives to protect women's rights.
30. Romania welcomed the political and institutional reforms Benin had introduced, including abolishing the death penalty and criminalizing torture.
31. The Russia Federation welcomed the adoption by Benin of national legislation strengthening its capacity to promote and protect human rights.
32. Rwanda commended Benin on its legislative and institutional reforms, in particular the abolition of the death penalty.
33. Saudi Arabia welcomed the legislative reforms Benin had made and the measures it had taken to combat corruption.
34. Senegal welcomed the reforms Benin had instituted to consolidate the rule of law, good governance, respect for human rights and sustainable development.
35. Serbia welcomed the operationalization of the Benin Human Rights Commission and the programmes to improve youth employment and access to education.
36. Sierra Leone commended Benin for abolishing the death penalty, criminalizing torture and its efforts to combat trafficking in persons.
37. Slovenia expressed concern about the persistently high rates of child marriage, child labour, school dropout and child exploitation.
38. Somalia commended Benin on its ratification of international instruments and its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights.
39. South Africa commended Benin on its abolition of the death penalty and its adoption of special procedures to punish gender-based offences.
40. Spain welcomed the abolition of the death penalty and the progress Benin had made in promoting and protecting women's rights.
41. Sri Lanka welcomed the efforts of Benin to eliminate violence against women through national policies and legislative amendments.
42. The State of Palestine welcomed the efforts made to promote and protect human rights in the country.
43. The Sudan commended the adoption of the action plan for the implementation of the National Child Protection Policy.
44. Switzerland commended the adoption of progressive laws protecting women's rights, including sexual health and reproductive rights.
45. Thailand expressed concern about discrimination against women, LGBTIQ+ persons and persons with albinism.
46. Türkiye welcomed the operationalization of the Children's Code and actions to implement the National Child Protection Policy.

47. Ukraine welcomed the strengthening of the national human rights institution. The representative of Ukraine, apologizing for the disruption from her mobile phone, explained that the sound delegates could hear was that of sirens warning the Ukrainian population about missile attacks launched by the Russian Federation.
48. The Russian Federation, raising a point of order, reminded all those present that in the universal periodic review, delegations should not make statements addressing political or territorial matters, but must focus on the country under review, namely Benin.
49. The Vice-President of the Human Rights Council gave the floor back to the Ambassador of Ukraine, asking the representative to continue her statement on the review of Benin. Ukraine encouraged Benin to continue making further progress.
50. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland urged Benin to protect civic space and media freedom.
51. Responding to advance questions from Belgium, Germany and the United Kingdom on the freedom of the press, the delegation of Benin stressed that freedom of the press continued to be the rule, in accordance with the Constitution, and had been strengthened by the recent adoption of a new organic law on the Audiovisual and Telecommunications Authority. The Digital Code guaranteed universal digital access. If means or tools of communication were used illegally, the courts would apply the laws in force to the offenders. In the delegation's view, the constant development of information and communications technology could lead Benin to update its laws to safeguard rights and freedoms in the digital environment.
52. Responding to a question from Portugal, the delegation of Benin explained that the main responsibilities of the National Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of International Human Rights Instruments were to prepare reports for submission to the human rights treaty bodies, to draw up a plan for the implementation of the recommendations made by international mechanisms and treaty bodies and to monitor the implementation of those recommendations. The mechanism had made possible the preparation of nine reports for submission to treaty bodies.
53. Responding to questions from Belgium and the United Kingdom, the delegation of Benin explained that the rights of LGBTQIA+ persons were protected under the country's laws. All violations of their rights as human beings were punished. Members of the LGBTQIA+ community could not adopt children, and only marriages between a man and a woman were recognized.
54. The delegation of Benin pointed out that the Constitution affirmed the right to life and prohibited the death penalty. In February 2018, Benin had commuted the sentences of the last 14 people who had been sentenced to death to life in prison. Six of those prisoners were pardoned by presidential decree in 2022.
55. The delegation explained that police officers received several types of training so that they could carry out their duties in accordance with the law and in a manner respectful of human rights.
56. The delegation of Benin stressed that development was the cornerstone of any lasting democracy. Benin had therefore based its development model on three pillars: democracy and governance, the economy, and quality of life. The Government's 2021–2026 programme of action strengthened each of the three pillars and informed all policy decisions taken by Benin, which had begun to restart its economy in 2020, in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. In addition, the 10-year health plan had enabled the development of the country's health system and facilitated the public's access to health care. Finally, Benin had improved its education system, including by making it easier for girls to obtain an education.
57. The United States of America valued its cooperation with Benin on the Human Rights Council.
58. Uruguay welcomed the adoption of Act No. 2019-40 approving amendments to the Constitution, including the abolition of the death penalty.

59. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela highlighted the implementation of the National Development Plan (2018–2025), which promoted sustainable economic growth.
60. Viet Nam welcomed the efforts to strengthen the legislative, institutional and policy framework to promote and protect human rights.
61. Yemen commended the operationalization of the Benin Human Rights Commission and its increased administrative and financial independence.
62. Zambia commended measures to strengthen the legislative, institutional and policy framework to promote and protect human rights.
63. Algeria welcomed the new provisions in the revised Constitution guaranteeing better protection of fundamental rights and public freedoms.
64. Angola encouraged Benin to take measures to prevent violations and abuses in the context of growing terrorist threats.
65. Argentina congratulated Benin on its ratification of all the main international human rights instruments.
66. Australia expressed concern at reports of overcrowding, malnutrition and poor sanitation in prisons and detention centres.
67. Azerbaijan commended the abolition of the death penalty, women’s increased representation in the National Assembly and the Human Rights Commission.
68. Bangladesh highlighted the declining rate of poverty in Benin and the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, among other achievements.
69. Belgium welcomed in particular the establishment of the Human Rights Commission and the abolition of the death penalty.
70. Botswana expressed concern about reports of sexual exploitation of children, especially in the travel and tourism industry.
71. Brazil commended progress in education and measures to modernize the justice system and improve detention conditions.
72. Brunei Darussalam welcomed the progress made in access to housing, which had led to a decline in poverty in recent years.
73. Bulgaria commended several legislative and institutional measures and achievements to improve access to education and health.
74. Burkina Faso applauded the abolition of the death penalty and Act No. 2021-11 on punishing violence against women.
75. Burundi appreciated the progress made to improve detention conditions, empower women and ensure free schooling.
76. Cabo Verde commended the legislative improvements and efforts to promote equality, while noting that discrimination and violence against certain groups persisted.
77. Cameroon noted the progress made by Benin in the protection of human rights, including the strengthening of the normative and institutional framework.
78. Canada welcomed the establishment of the Human Rights Commission and the National Women’s Institute and the commutation of the last death sentences.
79. Chad commended the measures taken to implement the recommendations from the previous review, while noting that further progress remained to be made.
80. Chile highlighted the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and other important international human rights instruments.
81. China acknowledged the significant progress made in the protection of vulnerable groups such as women and girls, persons with disabilities and immigrants.

82. Colombia welcomed the measures taken to promote and protect women's rights, criminalize torture and abolish the death penalty.
83. The Congo highlighted the amendments to the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, along with legal measures in other areas.
84. Costa Rica congratulated Benin for integrating the abolition of the death penalty in its Constitution.
85. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the abolition of the death penalty, the ratification of several international human rights instruments and the adoption of numerous new laws and decrees.
86. Cuba commended Benin on its commitment to the universal periodic review.
87. Cyprus commended Benin on its efforts to bring its laws into line with international human rights law and welcomed the establishment of special measures to combat gender-based violence.
88. Denmark welcomed the adoption of Act No. 2021-11, which reinforced the penalties for and definition of female genital mutilation, while remaining concerned at reports of the continued prevalence of that practice in several communities and at restrictions on freedom of expression online.
89. Djibouti welcomed the institutional and legal reforms that Benin had adopted, particularly to abolish the death penalty and to allow access to all to health care and quality education.
90. The Dominican Republic congratulated Benin on its ratification of the Convention against Torture and its abolition of the death penalty.
91. Egypt commended the strengthening of social protection for vulnerable groups and efforts to achieve equality for all persons, especially in education.
92. Estonia noted the criminalization of torture, the abolition of the death penalty and the adoption of laws concerning sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence.
93. The head of the delegation of Benin responded to concerns regarding women's participation in legal, political and cultural forums and highlighted the 2019 legislative changes requiring 24 of the 109 seats in the parliament to be held by women. Twenty-eight women had been elected in the previous parliamentary elections. Women thus occupied 25 per cent of the seats, an unprecedented development in Benin.
94. The head of the delegation announced plans to build modern prisons, in accordance with international standards, with a special regime for children. Benin was considering strengthening judicial oversight of pretrial detention. The delegation reiterated that there was universal access to justice in Benin.
95. The delegation stated that persons with albinism benefited from the provisions of the 2017 Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
96. The delegation highlighted the establishment of the National Agency for the Identification of Persons and mentioned several provisions that facilitated the registration of births and civil status documents.
97. The delegation of Benin stated that older persons faced no discrimination and that several measures to raise awareness of ageism were being taken in Benin.
98. Regarding the dissemination of laws relating to women's rights, the delegation explained that laws had been published online, making them more accessible. Each year, several ministries carried out activities to raise awareness of women's rights.
99. Regarding the prevention of female genital mutilation, the delegation of Benin recalled that legislation prohibiting that practice had been put in place and strengthened.
100. Regarding trafficking in children and child labour, the delegation recalled the normative and institutional measures that had been taken and the international treaties that had been ratified to address those problems.

101. The delegation recalled that Benin had ratified almost all the core international human rights instruments. The delegation also stressed that the rights guaranteed under the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, signed by Benin in 2013, were treated as a priority.
102. The delegation of Benin mentioned that a presidential action plan for persons with disabilities, which focused on their social inclusion and integration into the workplace, had recently been announced.
103. Ethiopia noted the adoption of the National Development Plan (2018–2025) and the second action plan for the implementation its National Child Protection Policy.
104. Finland noted with satisfaction the important reforms concerning women’s rights.
105. France welcomed the adoption of the law protecting the rights of persons with disabilities and the right to abortion.
106. Gabon commended Benin on its full cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms.
107. The Gambia noted the efforts of Benin to adapt public buildings to make them accessible to persons with disabilities.
108. Georgia commended the constitutional changes, the national policy on gender equality and the operationalization of the Human Rights Commission, which had been granted “A” status in 2022.
109. Ghana welcomed the adoption of the National Development Plan (2018–2025) and Act No. 2020-08 on the Modernization of the Justice System. It urged Benin to continue its efforts to implement Act No. 2021-11 to combat female genital mutilation in the country.
110. Germany commended the abolition of the death penalty. It remained concerned about the freedom of the press and the efficiency and independence of the judiciary.
111. Iceland welcomed the delegation of Benin and its national report.
112. India appreciated the continued efforts by Benin to promote and protect human rights through various inclusive and transparent reforms.
113. Indonesia congratulated Benin for the establishment of the Human Rights Commission and for having introduced legal reforms.
114. The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed the efforts of Benin to implement the National Development Plan (2018–2025).
115. Iraq welcomed the measures taken to promote the institutional and legislative framework for the promotion and protection of human rights.
116. Ireland was concerned about restrictions on the freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly in Benin.
117. Israel was concerned that LGBTQI+ persons continued to face stigma, discrimination and violence.
118. Italy welcomed the progress made in strengthening women’s rights, including its efforts to eliminate harmful practices and combat violence against women and girls.
119. Kenya commended Benin for its abolition of the death penalty and its ratification of several regional and international instruments.
120. Kuwait commended steps taken with regard to the rights of vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities and children.
121. The Lao People’s Democratic Republic welcomed the progress made in strengthening national legal and institutional human rights frameworks.
122. Latvia welcomed the abolition of the death penalty and the criminalization of torture.
123. Lesotho welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

124. Liechtenstein commended Benin on the abolition of the death penalty.
125. Luxembourg commended Benin for the criminalization of torture and the abolition of the death penalty.
126. Lithuania commended Benin on the abolition of the death penalty.
127. Malawi noted the ratification of various international human rights instruments.
128. Malaysia encouraged Benin to improve economic, social and cultural rights, including by increasing access to public services for its people.
129. Maldives noted the implementation of the National Development Plan, resulting in policies on health, employment, social protection and education.
130. Mauritius commended Benin on improving the employability of young people and the social protection strategies aimed at lifting people out of relative poverty.
131. Togo welcomed the improvement of the legislative framework to protect women and the abolition of the death penalty.
132. The head of the delegation of Benin recalled that, even though Benin had withdrawn its declaration regarding the competence of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, it remained a party to the protocol establishing the Court. Benin had made several recommendations regarding the Court and would reconsider the matter of the Court's competence as soon as a compromise was reached.
133. With respect to sexual and reproductive health and the availability of abortion, the head of the delegation recalled the decrees that had been adopted to implement the relevant laws and reiterated the Government's desire to be up to date on the matter.
134. The head of the delegation recalled that Benin had defined torture as an offence subject to no statute of limitations and that the Benin Human Rights Commission had been given responsibility for the mechanism for the prevention of torture.
135. The head of the delegation of Benin reaffirmed his country's commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms and its willingness to consider the recommendations and to implement those that it would accept.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

136. **The following recommendations will be examined by Benin, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the fifty-third session of the Human Rights Council:**
- 136.1 **Pursue efforts towards ratification of international instruments and cooperation with human rights mechanisms (Morocco);**
- 136.2 **Encourage ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Algeria);**
- 136.3 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Rwanda);**
- 136.4 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Cyprus) (Portugal);**
- 136.5 **Continue efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, signed in 2013 (Italy);**
- 136.6 **Accept individual complaint procedures under the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Finland);**

- 136.7 **Accept the inquiry procedure under article 11 of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Finland);**
- 136.8 **Ratify the amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression (Kampala amendments) (Liechtenstein);**
- 136.9 **Consider rejoining the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (Botswana) (Malawi);**
- 136.10 **Reconsider joining the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and People's Rights (Sierra Leone);**
- 136.11 **Reconsider Benin's withdrawal from the Protocol to the African Charter, in order to recognize again the competence of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (Mexico);**
- 136.12 **Rejoin the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (Costa Rica);**
- 136.13 **Consider full adherence to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and People's Rights, including the declaration referred to in article 34 (6) (Colombia);**
- 136.14 **Recognize Indigenous Peoples in law based on the principle of self-determination and ratify the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization (Mexico);**
- 136.15 **Address challenges appropriately for universal respect of human rights (Kuwait);**
- 136.16 **Adopt different measures to strengthen the protection and promotion of civil and political rights (Burundi);**
- 136.17 **Enhance cooperation with United Nations bodies and partners in order to better respect its obligations in the field of human rights (Kuwait);**
- 136.18 **Intensify actions aimed at increasing cooperation with its partners and the United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms for better compliance with its human rights commitments (Senegal);**
- 136.19 **Respond to all pending visit requests from the United Nations special procedure mandate holders (Latvia);**
- 136.20 **Ensure the realization of the pending visits from the United Nations Special Rapporteurs on the rights of persons with disabilities, on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation and in the field of cultural rights (Slovenia);**
- 136.21 **Continue strengthening the capacities of the national human rights mechanism through cooperation with OHCHR and other international partners (Georgia);**
- 136.22 **Establish a permanent national mechanism for the implementation and reporting of and follow-up to human rights recommendations, considering the possibility of receiving cooperation for this purpose, within the framework of Sustainable Development Goals 16 and 17 (Paraguay);**
- 136.23 **Use the current cycle of the universal periodic review to generate data that can support the implementation of both the Sustainable Development Goals and human rights, including the rights of children, women, persons with albinism, persons with disabilities and immigrants (Dominican Republic);**
- 136.24 **Adopt implementing decrees related to the new Acts No. 2021-11 and No. 2021-12 (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**

- 136.25 Continue to take targeted steps to improve national legislation in terms of observance of human rights and freedoms (Russian Federation);
- 136.26 Continue its efforts aimed at strengthening human rights legislative, institutional and policy frameworks (Sudan);
- 136.27 Continue its efforts to harmonize its national legislation with international human rights standards (Algeria);
- 136.28 Intensify efforts in the harmonization of national law with relevant international instruments (Brunei Darussalam);
- 136.29 Continue to strengthen the intervention capacities of the national human rights institution (Senegal);
- 136.30 Take the necessary measures to ensure that the national Human Rights Commission operates in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Spain);
- 136.31 Take all measures to ensure that the Benin Human Rights Commission operates in accordance with the Paris Principles (Chile);
- 136.32 Enhance the intervention capabilities of the national Human Rights Commission and provide it with the necessary financial resources (Mauritania);
- 136.33 Guarantee the independence of the Human Rights Commission and its members, in accordance with the Paris Principles relating to the status of national institutions, and strengthen its institutional framework and working methods (Thailand);
- 136.34 Guarantee the independence of the national Human Rights Commission and enable it to effectively exercise its mandate through the provision of adequate financial and human resources (Namibia);
- 136.35 Ensure that the national Human Rights Commission operates independently and complies with the Paris Principles (Ukraine);
- 136.36 Allocate an appropriate level of funding to the Human Rights Commission to ensure that it can effectively and independently implement its mandate (Azerbaijan);
- 136.37 Strengthen its national human rights institution so that it is able to carry out its mandate independently and efficiently in line with the Paris Principles (India);
- 136.38 Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law that explicitly prohibits discrimination in the public and private spheres and develop a new national action plan to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance, equipped with adequate implementation means, budgetary resources and a rigorous assessment system (Romania);
- 136.39 Promote public policies aimed at reducing discrimination against persons with albinism (Angola);
- 136.40 Adopt effective measures to protect persons with albinism from violence and discrimination, providing them with equal access to education, health care and employment (Serbia);
- 136.41 Take concrete measures with a view to protecting persons with albinism from violence, discrimination and abduction, and provide them with access to education, health and employment (Sierra Leone);
- 136.42 Strengthen efforts for the effective protection of children with albinism (Congo);

- 136.43 Continue efforts to protect persons with albinism from violence, abduction and discrimination, and ensure their enjoyment of access to education, health and employment opportunities (Iraq);
- 136.44 Strengthen efforts to combat stigmatization of and discrimination against persons with HIV through the effective application of Act No. 2005-31 on the prevention, treatment and control of HIV/AIDS (Panama);
- 136.45 Take urgent measures to combat stigma and discrimination against persons living with HIV and persons with albinism (Argentina);
- 136.46 Continue efforts to fight stigma and discrimination against persons living with HIV, including persons from the LGBTQI+ community (South Africa);
- 136.47 Prioritize the establishment of a national preventive mechanism in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Latvia);
- 136.48 Accelerate the establishment of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture, provided for in the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Togo);
- 136.49 Accelerate the establishment of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture (Niger);
- 136.50 Adopt a law establishing a national mechanism for the prevention of torture, in line with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Nigeria);
- 136.51 Change the definition of torture to bring it into line with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Estonia);
- 136.52 Move forward with the process of reforming the Criminal Code in order to harmonize the criminalization of torture with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);
- 136.53 Amend the Criminal Code to ensure that the criminalization of torture is consistent with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, particularly the definition of the act of torture, and implement an absolute ban on acts of torture (Ireland);
- 136.54 Bring the legal provision criminalizing torture into line with the principles of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ukraine);
- 136.55 Continue efforts to improve conditions of detention in the country's prisons (Canada);
- 136.56 Strengthen efforts to improve detention conditions, including pretrial detention conditions, to ensure they comply with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) (Switzerland);
- 136.57 Continue with the efforts to improve living conditions in all places of detention by ensuring that prisoners receive adequate, sufficient food and free medical care (Kenya);
- 136.58 Step up work to improve prison conditions, especially concerning overcrowding, sanitary conditions and access to food and medical supplies (Lesotho);
- 136.59 Take measures to improve conditions in the penitentiary system to guarantee international standards under the Convention against Torture and

Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the fundamental rights of persons deprived of liberty (Costa Rica);

136.60 **Continue to implement measures to avoid the risk of prison overcrowding (France);**

136.61 **Take immediate steps to improve prison conditions, by addressing overcrowding and providing adequate sanitation, nutrition and access to health services (Australia);**

136.62 **Ensure a strict separation of juveniles from adults in detention facilities (Zambia);**

136.63 **Curb the length of pretrial custodies and improve conditions for inmates in existing prison facilities (Germany);**

136.64 **Investigate extrajudicial killings following the general elections in recent years in order to end impunity and provide reparations (Costa Rica);**

136.65 **Open and conduct a prompt and thorough investigation for every case of alleged excessive use of force by defence and security forces, including killings of demonstrators, suspected terrorists or other suspected criminals, and provide access to justice and effective remedies for victims or their families (United States of America);**

136.66 **Develop clear guidelines for security forces on the use of force in line with the principles of lawfulness, necessity and proportionality (Ireland);**

136.67 **Enhance training on the absolute prohibition of torture and strengthen training programmes for officials likely to be involved in monitoring, questioning or handling persons deprived of their liberty (Latvia);**

136.68 **Redouble efforts to train and capacitate defence and security forces on the excessive use of force and on maintaining order during demonstrations (Lesotho);**

136.69 **Intensify efforts to launch the human rights educational programmes for law enforcement officers on combating torture and respect for human rights (Ukraine);**

136.70 **Raise awareness and enhance training programmes for officials on the absolute prohibition of torture (Estonia);**

136.71 **Ensure that the application of the law to combat terrorism respects human rights (Canada);**

136.72 **Strengthen and promote economic, social and cultural rights (Burundi);**

136.73 **Continue the efforts to promote democracy, the rule of law and good governance (Yemen);**

136.74 **Work to bring about a structural transformation of the economy, aiming to achieve sustainable development and social welfare (Mauritania);**

136.75 **Continue the structural transformation for the realization of the National Development Plan (2018–2025) (Ethiopia);**

136.76 **Strengthen its efforts to combat poverty and reduce the inequality between urban and rural areas (Bangladesh);**

136.77 **Step up efforts to combat corruption in the judicial system, reform the National Judicial Council and ensure effective access to justice for all by strengthening the legal aid system and facilitating access to a lawyer (Romania);**

136.78 **Continue efforts to fight corruption (Saudi Arabia);**

136.79 **Continue efforts made to combat corruption in prisons (Côte d'Ivoire);**

- 136.80 Further enhance efforts aimed at combating acts of corruption and terrorism (Somalia);
- 136.81 Continue to combat corruption in order to strengthen the new mindset of the population and the political class in terms of good governance (Chad);
- 136.82 Consider discharging accused persons on trial for offences for which the maximum sentence is beyond the period of the detention (Sierra Leone);
- 136.83 Strengthen the legal aid system to ensure effective access to justice for all persons involved in judicial proceedings (South Africa);
- 136.84 Continue to facilitate access to justice in terms of legal aid (Chad);
- 136.85 Continue its efforts to facilitate access to justice through the provision of legal assistance (Zambia);
- 136.86 Strengthen efforts to ensure the right to due process of law (Indonesia);
- 136.87 Set up legal aid for the benefit of vulnerable groups and a special court for land affairs (Burundi);
- 136.88 Implement efficient judicial procedures ensuring the independence of the judiciary (Germany);
- 136.89 Strengthen and expand democratic space, including through the exercise of the right to vote in a peaceful context of free, periodic and transparent elections (Luxembourg);
- 136.90 Strengthen and expand the democratic space, particularly through the exercise of the right to vote in a peaceful context of free, periodic and transparent elections and legislative reforms to guarantee the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, to prevent the arbitrary suspension of media outlets and to effectively protect human rights defenders (Romania);
- 136.91 Take steps to strengthen the credibility of electoral processes, including guaranteeing the full participation of opposition parties in the Presidential elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 136.92 Consider reviewing the provisions in the Criminal Code and Act No. 2017-20 of 20 April 2018 (Digital Code) relating to gatherings and disseminating false information to ensure that human rights defenders can work freely (Malta);
- 136.93 Review article 550 of the 2018 Digital Code, which restricts the right to freedom of expression, as well as ensuring the independence of the Audiovisual and Telecommunications Authority (Spain);
- 136.94 Revise the Digital Code to guarantee the right to freedom of expression, including for journalists and human rights defenders, in accordance with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Switzerland);
- 136.95 Revise the Digital Code to protect freedom of the press, in particular by clarifying article 550 on harassment through electronic communications (Canada);
- 136.96 Review and amend the provisions of the Digital Code that restrict freedom of expression and rights online, specifically sections that provide for prosecution and imprisonment for online content that is purportedly false (Denmark);
- 136.97 Revise the Digital Code to bring it into line with international law and allow human rights defenders to work freely and without fear (Luxembourg);
- 136.98 Consider amending the Digital Code provisions that unnecessarily restrict freedom of expression and infringe the rights of journalists (Lithuania);

- 136.99 **Revise the Digital Code, in particular article 550, which unduly restricts the right to freedom of expression, notably by removing the prison sentence for the offence of false information (Estonia);**
- 136.100 **Review the impact of the Digital Code and the Electoral Code to ensure the protection of freedom of expression and political participation (Australia);**
- 136.101 **Eliminate restrictions on the freedom of the press by recanting the *code du numérique* – Benin’s media law (Germany);**
- 136.102 **Review the relevant provisions in the Criminal Code in order to enable human rights defenders to work freely and without fear (Cyprus);**
- 136.103 **Ensure the right to freedom of expression, in particular for journalists, and guarantee freedom of peaceful assembly in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Belgium);**
- 136.104 **Guarantee freedom of expression and opinion and reform the Digital Code to make it compatible with this right (Costa Rica);**
- 136.105 **Allow citizens and journalists to freely engage in discourse without threat of harassment or arrest, including by revising the Digital Code, which unduly restricts the right to freedom of expression (United States of America);**
- 136.106 **Uphold the rights of journalists to report freely and without fear of reprisal (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 136.107 **Ensure the full exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly and the protection of journalists and human rights defenders from attacks (Italy);**
- 136.108 **Take effective measures to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons (Namibia);**
- 136.109 **Expedite the process for adopting the national policy document on combating trafficking in persons and an action plan on its implementation (Nigeria);**
- 136.110 **Redouble efforts in the fight against the exploitation of and trafficking in children, emphasizing the prohibition of practices such as *vidomegon* (Paraguay);**
- 136.111 **Increase efforts to strengthen the rights of the child, including through laws, policies, strategies and plans to protect children from marriage, early pregnancy, genital mutilation and sexual exploitation, to eradicate child labour and combat trafficking in children, and to increase their level of completed education (Slovenia);**
- 136.112 **Strengthen national mechanisms to combat the sale of children for forced labour and to fully implement the provisions of the Labour Code concerning child labour (Malta);**
- 136.113 **Combat the sale of children for forced labour and implement the provisions of the Labour Code concerning child labour (South Africa);**
- 136.114 **Mobilize efforts and provide resources to prevent the exploitation of children in situations of forced labour (Sri Lanka);**
- 136.115 **Take concrete measures to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular by preventing the exploitation and trafficking of children through awareness-raising measures and by ensuring that these cases are the subject of prosecutions and penalties (Switzerland);**
- 136.116 **Fight against forced child labour and strengthen community mechanisms to prevent and combat the economic exploitation of children (Türkiye);**

- 136.117 **Combat the sale of children for forced labour and strengthen community mechanisms to prevent and combat the economic exploitation of children (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 136.118 **Strengthen community-based mechanisms to prevent and combat the economic exploitation of children, including the sale of children for forced labour (Gambia);**
- 136.119 **Intensify efforts to combat the sale of children for forced labour (Iraq);**
- 136.120 **Strengthen efforts to combat trafficking in persons and eliminate all forms of slavery, especially of children (Egypt);**
- 136.121 **Take measures to combat the transnational trafficking of minors (Italy);**
- 136.122 **Combat the trafficking of children from and into neighbouring countries, including trafficking for servitude and the sexual exploitation of girls, and the sale of children for forced labour (Liechtenstein);**
- 136.123 **Combat the sale of children for forced labour, implement the provisions of the Labour Code relating to child labour, strengthen community-based mechanisms to prevent and combat the economic exploitation of children and investigate and prosecute those responsible for such harmful practices (Luxembourg);**
- 136.124 **Continue efforts to ensure effective measures to combat trafficking in persons through the adoption of a national policy and action plan to combat the crime (Dominican Republic);**
- 136.125 **Finalize the development of an action plan and the adoption of a national policy to combat trafficking in persons (Gabon);**
- 136.126 **Ensure the allocation of resources to train border agents in identifying cases of human trafficking and strengthen mechanisms that provide immediate aid to the victims (Gambia);**
- 136.127 **Continue working on the implementation of the National Development Programme with the aim of improving the economy and guaranteeing the social well-being of the country (Cuba);**
- 136.128 **Continue to promote socioeconomic sustainable development and to reduce the population living in poverty (China);**
- 136.129 **Strengthen the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights through the ongoing modernization process of the right to work and to just and favourable working conditions (Cameroon);**
- 136.130 **Continue efforts to reduce poverty and ensure socioeconomic development (Russian Federation);**
- 136.131 **Continue consolidating its social programmes and policies in order to increase the quality of life of its people, particularly those most in need (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 136.132 **Continue its efforts to realize social and economic development and alleviate poverty (Sudan);**
- 136.133 **Improve employment programmes for young people to increase the standard of living (State of Palestine);**
- 136.134 **Continue efforts in the fight against hunger in order to achieve food security (Viet Nam);**
- 136.135 **Continue its efforts to strengthen food security, especially in the departments most affected by hunger and malnutrition (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

- 136.136 Continue to step up measures to ensure access to drinking water and sanitation (Sri Lanka);
- 136.137 Continue implementing various schemes and measures to ensure inclusive access to adequate housing and basic amenities (Brunei Darussalam);
- 136.138 Take further steps to continue to improve living standards and to strengthen the social security system (China);
- 136.139 Improve the living conditions and standards of vulnerable populations by increasing their access to basic social protection services as well as sustainable and equitable economic opportunities (Malaysia);
- 136.140 Further reinforce measures for the enhancement of people's right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work, especially for the most vulnerable groups (Pakistan);
- 136.141 Step up efforts to increase investment in agriculture in order to achieve food security so that vulnerable groups, including children, are free from hunger and chronic malnutrition (Malaysia);
- 136.142 Accelerate the preparation of the decree implementing Act No. 2021-12 on sexual and reproductive health, which expands the conditions for access to abortion (Mexico);
- 136.143 Continue ensuring the availability of sexual and reproductive health-care services to adolescents and young people (Montenegro);
- 136.144 Recommit to implementing the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action, including through national commitments made at the Nairobi Summit (ICPD25), work to achieve health- and gender-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, and withdraw from contradictory joint initiatives like the Geneva Consensus Declaration on Promoting Women's Health and Strengthening the Family (United States of America);
- 136.145 Continue efforts to design and implement educational programmes on sexual and reproductive health aimed at women and girls, including those aimed at reducing the prevalence of unwanted pregnancies in the population (Uruguay);
- 136.146 Ensure the application of laws relating to sexual and reproductive health (Belgium);
- 136.147 Intensify efforts to guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health information and services by adopting the necessary implementing measures (Estonia);
- 136.148 Implement the effective strategies and action plans, which have already been adopted, to improve the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and young people and at the same time, step up efforts to combat the practice of female genital mutilation (Cabo Verde);
- 136.149 Develop and improve the health infrastructure, paying particular attention to improving access to quality care for the most vulnerable populations (Algeria);
- 136.150 Take the necessary steps to improve the quality of prenatal and postnatal services in order to reduce the maternal mortality rate (Kenya);
- 136.151 Enhance measures to improve the human and material resources necessary for the proper functioning of health facilities (Azerbaijan);
- 136.152 Continue making advances in compliance with the National Employment Policy and the National Community Health Policy to guarantee employment stability and access to quality medical services (Cuba);

- 136.153 Continue to improve universal access to primary health care, including obstetric care, throughout the territory, in particular to reduce infant mortality and morbidity (Djibouti);
- 136.154 Continue to improve the health-care system in order to ensure better access to basic health-care services in the country (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 136.155 Continue efforts to address malnutrition with a view to reducing infant, neonatal and maternal mortality rates (Indonesia);
- 136.156 Increase investment in public health care, particularly in construction of health facilities in rural areas (China);
- 136.157 Continue efforts to improve school infrastructure and equipment and increase investment in the education sector (Nepal);
- 136.158 Extend the duration of public education to 12 years, of which 9 are compulsory (Paraguay);
- 136.159 Promote access to free education for all, up to the age of 12, as recommended by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Mauritius);
- 136.160 Make proper investments in the education sector, particularly in the northern region (Angola);
- 136.161 Integrate comprehensive sexuality education in school curricula and ensure its effective implementation (Iceland);
- 136.162 Continue efforts to advance the right to education by improving school infrastructure and equipment, ensuring that all schools have adequate water and sanitation facilities (Portugal);
- 136.163 Organize campaigns and educational programmes to raise awareness of the importance of cultural heritage in all its diversity (Cyprus);
- 136.164 Continue to strengthen cooperation with relevant United Nations expert bodies and provide the required resources to expedite the implementation of the national policy on gender equality and its related action plan (Lithuania);
- 136.165 Continue in its efforts to mainstream gender in national policies (Cyprus);
- 136.166 Pursue efforts to mainstream gender in national policies (Niger);
- 136.167 Continue mainstreaming gender aspects in other national policies (Georgia);
- 136.168 Carry out programmes to raise awareness among the population regarding gender equality (Paraguay);
- 136.169 Continue to improve national efforts to empower women (Saudi Arabia);
- 136.170 Continue to strengthen the status and rights of women by effectively implementing policies on women's empowerment and also by providing sufficient financial resources to the National Women's Institute (Somalia);
- 136.171 Step up efforts to promote the rights and participation of women in the political, economic, social, legal and cultural spheres, and to combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls (Thailand);
- 136.172 Continue to take steps to promote the rights of women in the political, economic, social, legal and cultural spheres, in both the public and private sectors, and to combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women (Viet Nam);

- 136.173 Continue efforts to repeal all legal provisions that discriminate against women and hinder their empowerment (Bulgaria);
- 136.174 Continue the progress made in the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls through the operationalization of the National Women's Institute (Cameroon);
- 136.175 Ensure that laws advancing the rights and protection of women can be adequately implemented by increasing the budget for human resources, including education and training (Germany);
- 136.176 Take further steps to guarantee unimpeded access to education for all women and girls, both in rural and urban areas (Indonesia);
- 136.177 Strengthen the efforts to accelerate the progress of girls' education (Ethiopia);
- 136.178 Continue to conduct awareness-raising programmes to encourage girls to enrol in school (Maldives);
- 136.179 Take all necessary measures to ensure continued access to education by girls (Malawi);
- 136.180 Take all necessary steps to ensure that the availability of safe abortion services can be guaranteed, and to sensitize communities to the problem of unsafe abortion (Israel);
- 136.181 Implement Act No. 2021/12 that authorizes abortion up to the twelfth week of pregnancy, in cases where pregnancies are likely to cause or aggravate material, educational, professional or mental harm that is incompatible with the best interest of the woman and/or the unborn child (Iceland);
- 136.182 Increase efforts to end violence against women by providing specialized training to all actors involved in victim support (Maldives);
- 136.183 Provide support to the institution of the family in its traditional understanding (Russian Federation);
- 136.184 Carry out awareness-raising campaigns to prevent gender violence, guarantee that cases are investigated and the perpetrators convicted (Spain);
- 136.185 Increase significantly efforts to effectively implement all initiatives aimed at the promotion and protection of the rights of girls and women, in order to reinforce the processes for identifying and making complaints of gender-based violence, and adopt concrete measures to apply the laws (Argentina);
- 136.186 Continue to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement and judicial institutions to prosecute perpetrators of gender-based violence (Australia);
- 136.187 Ensure specialized training for health-care staff, physicians, social workers, judicial police officers, judges and magistrates involved in addressing gender-based violence throughout the country (Belgium);
- 136.188 Continue to adopt concrete measures to promote and protect the rights of women and girls, particularly regarding access to the labour market, political participation and combating gender-based violence (Brazil);
- 136.189 Complete and implement policies, strategies and plans aimed at ending the practice of female genital mutilation (Israel);
- 136.190 Combat gender-based violence, strengthen actions and implement new national awareness-raising programmes to completely eliminate all types of female genital mutilation (Costa Rica);
- 136.191 Take all necessary measures, both in law and in practice, to combat violence against women and girls and domestic violence, child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation (Latvia);

- 136.192 Intensify efforts to tackle sexual and gender-based violence and other harmful practices affecting women and girls (Liechtenstein);
- 136.193 Ensure the implementation of Act No. 2021-11 by investigating and prosecuting the practice of female genital mutilation and raising awareness in affected communities (Denmark);
- 136.194 Strengthen efforts to effectively implement all initiatives to combat gender-based violence and other harmful practices affecting women and girls, including detection, reporting and ensuring justice for victims (Lithuania);
- 136.195 Ensure the application of Act No. 2021-11 punishing the practice of female genital mutilation by investigating this type of practice, punishing the perpetrators of such acts and conducting awareness-raising campaigns among the relevant local populations (Burkina Faso);
- 136.196 Redouble efforts to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, including by strengthening the detection of cases, reporting, investigation and law enforcement (Malaysia);
- 136.197 Investigate acts of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence (Lesotho);
- 136.198 Continue to reinforce mechanisms to safeguard women's and children's rights (Pakistan);
- 136.199 Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit on the International Conference on Population and Development to, under Benin's programme of social protection for all, keep girls in education by significantly increasing the rate of female school retention through a combined strategy for school meals and the eradication of pregnancies among school-age girls and child marriage (Panama);
- 136.200 Raise awareness in the tourism sector of the harmful effects of sexual exploitation of children in the context of travel and tourism through wide dissemination of the World Tourism Organization's Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, and by encouraging operators in this sector to become signatories to the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism (Panama);
- 136.201 Conduct nationwide awareness-raising campaigns on children's rights, the criminalization of child labour, infanticide and harmful practices such as child and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, with a view to eliminating these practices (Portugal);
- 136.202 Impose appropriate penalties on the perpetrators of child sexual exploitation in travel and tourism (Montenegro);
- 136.203 Adopt policies for creating more job opportunities for unemployed youth (Bangladesh);
- 136.204 Improve programmes and projects for the professional integration of young people, facilitate their access to financing and increase the necessary resources in the field of health (Rwanda);
- 136.205 Improve children's access to social services (South Africa);
- 136.206 Intensify efforts to counter human trafficking, in particular child trafficking (Sri Lanka);
- 136.207 Make further efforts to prevent and combat the exploitation of children in all its forms (Cabo Verde);
- 136.208 Strengthen measures to eliminate harmful traditional practices and the sexual and economic exploitation of women and children (Nepal);
- 136.209 Strengthen community mechanisms to prevent and combat the economic exploitation of children (Togo);

- 136.210 **Take all measures to protect children from all forms of exploitation (Malawi);**
- 136.211 **Combat effectively the economic exploitation of children, in particular by prosecuting those responsible (Congo);**
- 136.212 **Strengthen measures to eradicate the exploitation of children for forced or hazardous labour and harmful practices such as *vidomegon* (Colombia);**
- 136.213 **Continue to take measures to combat child trafficking (India);**
- 136.214 **Investigate and prosecute those responsible for harmful practices affecting children, and conduct education and awareness-raising campaigns on children's rights (Mexico);**
- 136.215 **Finalize the adoption of the National Action Plan to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labour (Kenya);**
- 136.216 **Adopt additional measures to ensure the effective accountability of perpetrators of child exploitation (Angola);**
- 136.217 **Continue to implement the National Child Protection Policy, including strengthening the fight against trafficking in children (France);**
- 136.218 **Continue with efforts to eradicate child labour, violence, early marriage and corporal punishment and poor detention conditions for minors (Dominican Republic);**
- 136.219 **Pursue the efforts made to combat trafficking in children nationally and to other countries in the region by placing greater emphasis on the training of State agents, the protection of victims of trafficking and the reintegration of victims into society (Djibouti);**
- 136.220 **Investigate all reports of sexual exploitation of children and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice (Botswana);**
- 136.221 **Guarantee the effective application of the Criminal Code and the Children's Code and carry out impartial and exhaustive investigations into acts of torture, ill-treatment and sexual violence against boys and girls, ensuring that those responsible and State agents who allegedly endorsed or tolerated such acts are prosecuted and, if found guilty, receive appropriate penalties (Argentina);**
- 136.222 **Continue efforts to establish childcare centres and improve mechanisms for reporting and dealing with violations of children's rights (State of Palestine);**
- 136.223 **Take further measures to strengthen and improve the functioning of warning mechanisms and mechanisms for reporting and dealing with violations of children's rights (Bulgaria);**
- 136.224 **Take the necessary measures to reduce the rate of infant and maternal mortality (Bangladesh);**
- 136.225 **Adopt a comprehensive strategy for the prevention and elimination of child, early and forced marriage, paying particular attention to vulnerable adolescents, girls and women (India);**
- 136.226 **Consider adopting a national action plan to end child marriage (Zambia);**
- 136.227 **Work towards the effective implementation of recent legislation on the rights of women and girls in order to achieve concrete results in combating child, early and forced marriage (Canada);**
- 136.228 **Adopt a strategy for the prevention and elimination of child, early and forced marriage (Burkina Faso);**

- 136.229 Continue to intensify efforts to ensure the registration of all child births and to sensitize the population on the importance of birth registration, especially in rural areas (Türkiye);
- 136.230 Allocate greater resources to implement the National Child Protection Policy, adopting measures to ensure the fulfilment of the rights of all children in the country (Uruguay);
- 136.231 Continue adopting effective measures for the promotion of youth employment to facilitate equitable and satisfactory working conditions (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 136.232 Take steps to improve employment programmes and projects for young people (Azerbaijan);
- 136.233 Continue its efforts to combat underemployment, especially among youth and by creating and developing digital job application platforms (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 136.234 Continue taking additional measures to guarantee the rights of the child and to implement the Children's Code, including by extending education and eradicating child labour (Brazil);
- 136.235 Redouble efforts to combat school dropout by addressing its social and economic causes, including the refusal of parents to send their children, especially girls, to school (Colombia);
- 136.236 Continue efforts to guarantee equal access to quality education for all children (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 136.237 Proceed with the implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labour (Gabon);
- 136.238 Put in place the provisions of the Labour Code concerning child labour (Gambia);
- 136.239 Eliminate gender-based discrimination in nationality legislation, in particular for children born to Beninese mothers and foreign fathers and spouses married to Beninese women (Latvia);
- 136.240 Take further steps to protect the rights of persons with disabilities (Pakistan);
- 136.241 Step up efforts to improve access to health care and inclusive education for persons with disabilities (Bulgaria);
- 136.242 Continue efforts to integrate persons with disabilities in the process of facilitating access to health care and education through the upgrading of public buildings to international norms and standards (Cameroon);
- 136.243 Continue efforts to protect the rights of persons with disabilities by continuing to implement the 2017 law on the subject (France);
- 136.244 Finalize the development and adoption of decrees on the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities (Gabon);
- 136.245 Recognize the existence of the Indigenous Peoples of Benin and develop a legal framework in relation to them (Paraguay);
- 136.246 Adopt measures aimed at the protection and recognition of Indigenous Peoples (Colombia);
- 136.247 Take steps to outlaw all discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and sexual characteristics, and ensure that all necessary steps are taken to prosecute perpetrators (Malta);
- 136.248 Prohibit any discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity and ensure that the perpetrators of acts of violence or discrimination

against LGBTIQ+ people are prosecuted and punished for their acts (Kingdom of the Netherlands);

136.249 Prohibit in law discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, investigate and convict offenders, and carry out awareness-raising campaigns against institutional, social and familial homophobia (Spain);

136.250 Review and adapt national legislation to guarantee the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, especially with regard to the application of the Digital Code and its implications for the right to freedom of expression of this population (Uruguay);

136.251 Adopt positive measures for the recognition of the gender identity of all persons, in accordance with their personal autonomy and human dignity (Argentina);

136.252 Continue efforts towards the adoption of a comprehensive anti-discrimination law, including the prohibition of all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and sexual characteristics (Chile);

136.253 Create a legislative framework for the protection of the LGTBIQ+ community and incorporate issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity in existing anti-discrimination laws (Colombia);

136.254 Adopt urgently preventive and protection measures to eliminate discrimination, violence and stereotypes against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and collect disaggregated data providing evidence of aggression against and harassment of this population (Costa Rica);

136.255 Ensure that acts of violence against members of the LGBT+ community are promptly investigated and that those responsible are brought to justice (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

136.256 Guarantee the right of transgender persons to health and bodily autonomy by improving access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health services and gender-affirming medical services (Iceland);

136.257 Allow LGBTQI+ associations to register freely (Iceland);

136.258 Launch awareness campaigns to combat stigma and discrimination against LGBTQI+ persons (Israel).

137. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Benin was headed by H.E. Mr. Séverin Maxime Quenum, Minister of Justice and Legislation, and composed of the following members:

- Monsieur Franck Armel AFOUKOU, Ambassadeur, Secrétaire général adjoint du Ministère des Affaires étrangères et de la Coopération;
 - Monsieur Angelo DAN, Ambassadeur, Chef de Mission adjoint à l'Ambassade du Bénin à Paris, Représentant du Bénin au Conseil des droits de l'Homme;
 - Monsieur Eric AGOSSOUNON, Contrôleur général de Police, Conseiller technique à la Sécurité du Ministre de l'Intérieur et de la Sécurité publique;
 - Monsieur Cyriaque EDON, Directeur général des Politiques de développement au Ministère du Développement et de la Coordination de l'Action gouvernementale;
 - Monsieur Olushègoun Romaric Abdel Salim TIDJANI SERPOS, Directeur des Services législatifs à l'Assemblée nationale;
 - Madame A. Inès Laurenda HADONOU épouse TOFFOUN, Directrice des Droits humains au Ministère de la Justice et de la Législation (MJL);
 - Monsieur Médessè Gildas Arnaud TOFFOUN, Directeur de la Protection Juridique et judiciaire de l'Enfance au Ministère de la Justice et de la Législation;
 - Madame Simone Kossiba HONVOU, Directrice des affaires juridiques à l'Agence nationale de la Protection sociale (ANPS);
 - Monsieur Timothée YABIT, Avocat, personne ressource;
 - Monsieur Brice GBESSI, Administrateur en service à la Direction des droits humains du Ministère de la Justice et de la Législation.
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