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Universal periodic review

## Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review\*

### Sri Lanka

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



## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its forty-second session from 23 January to 3 February 2023. The review of Sri Lanka was held at the 14th meeting, on 1 February 2023. The delegation of Sri Lanka was headed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ali Sabry. At its 16th meeting, held on 3 February 2023, the Working Group adopted the report on Sri Lanka.
2. On 11 January 2023, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Sri Lanka: Algeria, Qatar and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
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 Sri Lanka:
  - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);<sup>1</sup>
  - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);<sup>2</sup>
  - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).<sup>3</sup>
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Angola, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Uruguay was transmitted to Sri Lanka through the troika. The 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. Sri Lanka noted that the universal periodic review mechanism provided an equal opportunity for United Nations Member States to voluntarily share the progress made domestically and had reduced selectivity and politicization, enabling constructive engagement.
6. The national report of Sri Lanka was produced through an inclusive process, including government ministries, civil society and the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka.
7. As a State party to 16 major United Nations human rights instruments, Sri Lanka had extended standing invitations to all thematic special procedure mandate holders and had facilitated country visits.
8. Despite severe domestic and global challenges, Sri Lanka continued to make efforts towards the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.
9. Sri Lanka had progressed on political, social and economic fronts; constitutional processes had been adhered to in the political transition, and parliamentary and public institutions had remained resilient. The twenty-first amendment to the Constitution and the Regulation of Election Expenditure Act of 2023 had enhanced public trust in Government, further strengthened democratic governance and financial accountability and enhanced electoral transparency. The anti-corruption bill was being finalized. The Central Bank of Sri

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<sup>1</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/42/LKA/1](#).

<sup>2</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/42/LKA/2](#).

<sup>3</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/42/LKA/3](#).

Lanka bill was aimed at the long-term sustainability of the economy and included provisions to strengthen its independence.

10. The availability of essential items had been maintained and administrative routines had resumed. Special budgetary allocations for 2023 had been made, emphasizing better targeting of beneficiaries. Enhancing nutritional status and ensuring food and energy security had been prioritized.

11. The year 2023 was envisaged as one of socioeconomic stabilization, reconciliation and recovery, and the opportunity would be used to assess challenges, to learn from the past and to build better and stronger. All Sri Lankans, including those overseas, were invited to join in that endeavour.

12. A range of policy measure were identified towards reconciliation. They included a truth-seeking mechanism, a social justice commission and new national security legislation replacing the Prevention of Terrorism Act. An Office for Overseas Sri Lankans was being established. A rapid development plan for the north and the east was being formulated, and the President had called for the full implementation of the thirteenth amendment to the Constitution.

13. A Cabinet subcommittee on reconciliation, under the chairmanship of the President, had already deliberated on matters related to missing persons, internally displaced persons, land and compensation. The President had convened an all-party leaders' conference to garner political support for those efforts.

14. Sri Lanka further elaborated on the key legislative amendments. It also noted that the Office on Missing Persons, which took a victim-centred approach, continued to operate with financial provisions allocated in the national budget. The Office had established mechanisms to expeditiously assist victims, their families and witnesses.

15. The national reparations policy and guidelines formulated by the Office for Reparations had been approved and tabled in Parliament in February 2022. Compensation had been further increased and budgetary allocations made for 2023.

16. The Office for National Unity and Reconciliation continued to execute its mandate in eight thematic areas and had assumed greater importance in building national unity and reconciliation.

17. The Presidential Commission of Inquiry for the appraisal of the findings of previous commissions and committees on human rights and the way forward had submitted its first interim report in 2021. Its recommendations had resulted in the establishment of an Advisory Board under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, making substantial amendments to the Act and the release of detainees. Following public sittings in Colombo, Jaffna and Kilinochchi, the Commission's second interim report was submitted in February 2022, and the final report was expected shortly.

## **B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review**

18. During the interactive dialogue, 106 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

19. Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czechia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, the Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, the Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, the Russian

Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan and Hungary made recommendations. Mauritania and Mauritius made statements. The complete version of the statements may be found in the webcast archived on the United Nations website.<sup>4</sup>

20. In response to questions raised during the interactive dialogue, Sri Lanka stated that the Constitution guaranteed freedom of expression and peaceful assembly with permissible restrictions, including for national security and public order.

21. While the right to peaceful protest was recognized, where the protests had exceeded the peaceful realm, arrests had been made in the interest of national security and public order, subject to judicial oversight. Restrained action had been taken, in accordance with the law, when protestors had burned down the private residence of the President (then the Prime Minister) and tried to forcibly enter the Parliament building. The rule of law should be of paramount consideration with no disruption to the functioning of Government or transgression upon the rights of others.

22. The election of the incumbent President had been conducted in accordance with the Constitution and established legal procedures.

23. Following extensive and inclusive deliberations, amendments to the Prevention of Terrorism Act had been adopted by Parliament in March 2022. The amendments provided for enhanced judicial oversight for investigations, monitoring of places of detention by the Human Rights Commission and upholding the right of detainees to legal representation and communication with their relatives. The amendments were an interim measure towards the promulgation of a more comprehensive anti-terrorism legislation.

24. There is a de facto moratorium on arrests under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and instructions had been issued to law enforcement authorities to use the legislation only in instances of extreme necessity.

25. Furthermore, a Cabinet subcommittee and an officials committee had been appointed to draft legislation that balanced national security concerns and international standards.

26. Following the Easter Sunday terrorist attacks of 2019, extensive investigations had been carried out and several suspects detained. On 4 October 2021, the Colombo High Court had served charges on 25 suspects. Indictments had been referred to other high courts, and the trials were proceeding.

27. On 12 January 2023, the Supreme Court, in a judgment on a petition filed against the former President, the former Inspector-General of the Police, the former Director of the State Intelligence Service, the former Defence Secretary and the former Chief of National Intelligence, ordered that those persons pay compensation to the victim fund maintained at the Office for Reparation from their personal funds. The State was ordered to take disciplinary action against the former Director of the State Intelligence Service.

28. Sri Lanka acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, on 5 December 2017, and the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka had been designated as the national preventive mechanism.

29. The Constitution of Sri Lanka and numerous other laws guaranteed freedom from torture. Those laws empowered magistrates and the Human Rights Commission to visit suspects in custody. They could also obtain legal assistance. Laws had been enacted in 2021 and 2022 requiring magistrates to visit police stations and other remand facilities in accordance with the Convention against Torture Act of 1994.

30. Sri Lanka had guaranteed the “right to life” through its judicial pronouncements, and interim orders had been made staying the execution of the death penalty in several cases of fundamental rights applications pending before the Supreme Court. A Penal Code amendment of 2021 prohibited the pronouncement of a death sentence against any person who was under 18 years of age at the time of committing the offence.

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<sup>4</sup> See <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1w/k1wp13b2p0>.

31. Sri Lanka had a policy of being “abolitionist in practice”, and a moratorium had been maintained on the death penalty since 1976. The incumbent President had stated that he would not sign the warrant to execute a death sentence. Sri Lanka had voted in favour of the General Assembly resolutions on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

32. A private member’s bill had been submitted to Parliament in 2022, seeking to reform the Penal Code to protect the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex communities. In December 2022, consultations had been held with civil society representatives working on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex rights, following which the Inspector-General of the Police had appointed a female Senior Deputy Inspector-General to extend the support required.

33. A special unit on solving issues of people in the Northern Province had been established under the Presidential Secretariat, to focus on expediting northern development, reconciliation and national unity and to assist in the work of the Office on Missing Persons, the Office for Reparations and the Cabinet Subcommittee on Reconciliation.

34. A total of 92 per cent of private lands retained by the military in the Northern and Eastern Provinces had been released to the legitimate civilian owners through the local government authorities, as of January 2023. Over 100 acres of land under the army and navy in Palaly in the Northern Province would be released shortly.

35. Land ownership would be restored for people traditionally occupying and cultivating their lands, for cases where it had been declared as forest or wildlife reservations that had been abandoned, due to the conflict situation. The Cabinet had approved a road map to remap such areas and grant deeds.

36. As of January 2023, a total of 2,324 families remained to be resettled, 149 were in welfare centres and 2,175 were living with extended family or friends. Of the families living in welfare centres, 75 were due to be resettled shortly, in 13 acres of land released from the high-security zone in Palaly.

37. A special committee had been appointed under the Ministry of Justice to look into the needs of Sri Lankan refugees returning from India. Mobile services had been conducted to solve issues of registration, obtaining birth, death and marriage certificates and issuing citizenship certificates.

38. Article 12 (1) of the Constitution guaranteed equality to all persons and equal protection of the law. Article 12 (2) guaranteed the fundamental right to non-discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, language, caste, sex, political opinion, place of birth or any such grounds. Continuous steps were being taken to ensure that all communities had the space to express their identity, enjoy their culture, profess and practice their religion and use, nurture and promote their language.

39. With the support of development partners, the Office for National Unity and Reconciliation was developing a national action plan on preventing violent extremism. No person was permitted by law to advocate national, racial or religious hatred inciting discrimination or violence.

40. The multisector combined mechanism for food security and nutrition involved all levels of Government, from the national level to over 14,000 village-level administrative bodies, to mitigate challenges related to food security and nutrition. A national nutrition policy had been adopted establishing several initiatives, including a national programme on micronutrient supplementation targeting pregnant and lactating mothers, children under 5 years of age and all schoolchildren.

41. A programme to provide a nutritional allowance to pregnant mothers was also in operation, while a morning meal programme was being implemented to the benefit of 155,000 children in 6,000 preschools throughout the country. The school meal programme operated in nearly 8,000 schools, covering 1.1 million students representing all provinces. The Partnership Secretariat for World Food Programme Cooperation under the Presidential Secretariat ensured the effective coordination of the emergency response programme and the livelihood development and capacity-building of farmers and related sectors.

42. The twenty-first amendment to the Constitution had enhanced the independence and powers of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery and Corruption. The proposed anti-corruption bill, to be submitted to Parliament, envisaged its further strengthening.

43. In August 2021, the Cabinet of Ministers had approved the drafting of a new bill to replace the existing Voluntary Social Services Organization Act. Civil society had been requested to submit their proposals on the new bill and to nominate two representatives to the drafting committee.

44. A circular issued in December 2022 by the Non-Governmental Organization Secretariat had simplified the reporting process with regard to non-governmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations.

45. Complaints received on alleged attacks against journalists, human rights defenders and civil society were investigated by law enforcement authorities, as well as independent institutions, such as the Human Rights Commission and the National Police Commission.

46. The Sustainable Development Act of 2017 had established the Sustainable Development Council, mandated with all matters relating to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the Global Sustainable Development Report of 2021, the authors had assessed that the performance of Sri Lanka in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals had been progressive. Sri Lanka continued to make progress in realizing Goals 1, 4, 12 and 13, and, at present, it was ranked 76 among 163 countries.

47. An inter-agency steering committee on peace, justice and strong institutions had been established under the Ministry of Justice focusing on four core areas: strengthening public security and law enforcement, corruption control, access to justice and public service delivery. The second voluntary national review was presented to the high-level political forum on sustainable development in July 2022. In January 2023, the Sustainable Development Council had issued guidelines to all government ministries to identify nationally appropriate Sustainable Development Goal targets.

48. Sri Lanka continued to engage with the United Nations system and had facilitated country visits by five special procedure mandate holders since the last universal periodic review cycle, including a visit of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in April 2019. Sri Lanka had submitted three periodic reports, under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Sri Lanka had participated in two reviews under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and it would also be participating at the review of its sixth periodic report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in March 2023.

49. The priority afforded by Sri Lanka towards the welfare of migrant workers and addressing root causes leading to vulnerable situations, including trafficking, was highlighted. Tangible action had been taken nationally and regionally, through the Colombo Process and the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, in migrant health; the delegation also noted the launch of a pension scheme for migrant workers in September 2022, enhanced and increased grant assistance up to 100,000 rupees and reimbursement of foreign employment training costs up to 10,000 rupees by the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment, and the increase in the scholarship for migrant schoolchildren to 10,000 rupees.

50. Progressive steps had been taken by Sri Lanka to prevent trafficking and smuggling of persons, including migrant workers, and capacity-building and training programmes to strengthen the identification of such persons were mentioned.

51. The ongoing amendment of the Children and Young Persons Ordinance of 1939 would enable the establishment of courts for hearings regarding children requiring protection or trials against children violating the law. Furthermore, strengthening the law on child labour and hazardous forms of child labour with respect to the minimum age of employment would provide protection for children from working in 71 fields of work. The Child Labour Free Zone would be expanded to 10 additional districts in 2023.

52. Other progressive measures included amendments to the Penal Code Act of 1995, towards the criminalization of all forms of ill-treatment of children, including corporal punishment, as well as the issuance of policies prohibiting corporal punishment in schools and the Children and Young Persons Act of 2022, which had increased the age of a person considered a child from 16 to 18 years of age.

53. Constitutional and legislative safeguards and institutional mechanisms were already in force to recognize and support persons with disabilities, including Act No. 28 of 1996, amended by Act No. 33 of 2003. Following the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, an inclusive consultative process was ongoing. Policies had been formulated by the National Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities to raise public awareness of disability and to combat prejudices, including by training government officers in sign language and Braille methodology.

54. Measures taken to strengthen access to welfare programmes, education, health services and employment by persons with disabilities were noted. They included increasing the allowance for low-income persons, formulating a bill to recognize sign language, a pilot project by the Ministry of Health to increase access to free health care and converting a spoken Tamil textbook into Braille by the Ministry of Public Services, Provincial Councils and Local Government. The establishment of special education units within government schools, special extracurricular sports activities, allocating 1 per cent quota in universities, assistance for participating in examinations and the relaxation of the limitations in age when enrolling in educational programmes, among other initiatives, had been provided by the Ministry of Education. Public-private partnership initiatives to improve access to employment and the complementary efforts by non-governmental organizations were also noted.

55. Measures to strengthen social protection included new relief measures targeting segments affected by economic hardship, enabling higher allocations of cash transfers, the allocation of 187 billion rupees for the social safety-net programme and providing 500 million rupees to strengthen existing child nutrition supplemental programmes.

56. A donor coordination cell had been established at the Ministry of Finance to coordinate support from United Nations agencies and bilateral partners and had identified the need for a comprehensive, social security scheme for the country's workforce, initially focusing on unemployment benefits, maternity benefits and employment injury insurance.

57. The Office on Missing Persons had conducted preliminary inquiries as part of its verification process, leading to in-depth investigations. An extraordinary gazette had been issued to extend the validity of provisions related to the certificate of absence of the Registrations of Death Act by another two years, from 2021 to 2023. The International Committee of the Red Cross had supported the work of the Office.

58. An amount of 277.9 million rupees had been disbursed by the Office for Reparations, covering 4,610 cases, mainly for death and injuries, missing persons and damaged properties, mostly in the north and the east, due to the conflict. The Office had been allocated a budget of 459 million rupees in 2021 and 840 million rupees in 2022. Of the total recurrent expenditure budget of the Office for 2022, 85 per cent had been set aside to pay monetary compensation. The Office had participated in mobile services organized in Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts, in 2022, to obtain missing documents from those who had submitted their applications for compensation.

59. Collaborating with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Office for National Unity and Reconciliation had provided an online training to over 300 youths across the country and was combining a small grants programme to support grass-roots level initiatives.

60. The Cabinet of Ministers, in September 2022, had requested the Women Parliamentarian's Caucus in Parliament to prepare a preliminary draft of a gender equality and women's empowerment bill.

61. A circular had been issued to the ministries, in November 2022, on incorporating gender-responsive budgeting into their budgets for 2023.

62. The Government had taken steps to provide financial and technical support to facilitate self-employment projects, in 2021 and 2022, to vulnerable groups of women including those in the estates and working in the fisheries sector, women-headed households and disabled women.

63. Sri Lanka had adopted the national action plan on sexual and gender-based violence, 2016–2020, that was focused on preventing sexual and gender-based violence, intervening in situations of sexual and gender-based violence and advocating for policies and laws to combat and address it. Pursuant to its review in 2021, a new action plan was being prepared.

64. In closing, Sri Lanka informed the Working Group that it would carefully consider the recommendations received and respond within the given time frames.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

65. The following recommendations will be examined by Sri Lanka, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the fifty-third session of the Human Rights Council:

- 65.1 Consider participating in core human rights treaties (Ukraine);
- 65.2 Ratify and implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (North Macedonia);
- 65.3 Ratify and implement the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (North Macedonia);
- 65.4 Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Chile);
- 65.5 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Argentina) (Brazil) (Colombia) (Ecuador) (Estonia) (France) (Malta) (Mexico) (Panama) (Spain) (Ukraine);
- 65.6 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Latvia);
- 65.7 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with a view to further strengthening child protection (France);
- 65.8 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Namibia);
- 65.9 Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (South Africa);
- 65.10 Ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, since there is no national law on asylum (Spain);
- 65.11 Ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto and address refugees' limited access to personal and civil documentation, as a first step to ensuring their human rights to housing and work (Portugal);
- 65.12 Sign and ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Luxembourg);
- 65.13 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Austria) (Botswana) (Ecuador) (Estonia) (Timor-Leste);



- 65.14 **Accede to the additional protocols to the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Colombia);**
- 65.15 **Ratify the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), of the International Labour Organization (Namibia);**
- 65.16 **Ratify the International Labour Organization conventions, including the Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183), the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), and the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) (North Macedonia);**
- 65.17 **Ratify the Arms Trade Treaty (Panama);**
- 65.18 **Ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Panama);**
- 65.19 **Continue its constructive engagement and cooperation with the international human rights mechanisms, including through technical cooperation, in line with its voluntary undertakings (Algeria);**
- 65.20 **Extend a standing invitation to United Nations special procedures on the situation of human rights defenders (Costa Rica);**
- 65.21 **Continue to constructively engage and cooperate with United Nations human rights mechanisms, including through technical cooperation that supports national initiatives (Philippines);**
- 65.22 **Cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other Human Rights Council-mandated mechanisms and procedures (Lithuania);**
- 65.23 **Strengthen cooperation and constructive engagement with the United Nations agencies (Kazakhstan);**
- 65.24 **Pursue efforts for the decentralization of power (Switzerland);**
- 65.25 **Strengthen the efforts in addressing the underlying economic and financial challenges (Ethiopia);**
- 65.26 **Continue actions aimed at strengthening its legislation on discrimination on any grounds (Cuba);**
- 65.27 **Amend the legislation on divorce and the Criminal Code in order to criminalize sexual corruption as an offence (Burundi);**
- 65.28 **Intensify efforts to mainstream the marginalized people and to practice pluralism and inclusivity (Bangladesh);**
- 65.29 **Continue the effective implementation of the national environmental action plan, 2022–2030 (Kazakhstan);**
- 65.30 **Accelerate national efforts to operationalize the 2030 Agenda framework in order to progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 (Lebanon);**
- 65.31 **Step up efforts to domesticate the Sustainable Development Goals and implement them nationally (Saudi Arabia);**
- 65.32 **Strengthen its efforts aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including by expanding access to health, education and drinking water, and continue the endeavours to improve livelihoods (Sudan);**
- 65.33 **Strengthen and ensure the independence of the national Human Rights Commission (Ukraine);**
- 65.34 **Ensure that adequate resources are provided for the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka in order to continue its work (Zambia);**
- 65.35 **Undertake a broad-based consultative process to advance constitutional reforms that will guarantee the independence of key institutions, including the judiciary and the Human Rights Commission (Croatia);**

- 65.36 Provide the necessary resources for the national Human Rights Commission to enable it to carry out its tasks effectively, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Qatar);
- 65.37 Ensure that adequate resources are provided for the Human Rights Commission in order for it to carry its work (Lebanon);
- 65.38 Expand the powers of the Human Rights Commission to enable it to exercise its mandate (Jordan);
- 65.39 Ensure that adequate resources are provided for the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka to continue its work (Hungary);
- 65.40 Reinforce the impact of the Human Rights Commission (Cameroon);
- 65.41 Consider providing adequate resources to the national Human Rights Commission in order to support it in continuing its work (Egypt);
- 65.42 Institutionalize a focal point ministry as the national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, as a domestic mechanism to coordinate the implementation of the universal periodic review recommendations, with assistance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Malaysia);
- 65.43 Establish a permanent national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up, regarding human rights recommendations, considering the possibility of receiving cooperation for this purpose (Paraguay);
- 65.44 Consolidate its policy of national reconciliation by setting up a genuine system of prevention and repression to combat hate speech and discrimination (Togo);
- 65.45 Promote interfaith dialogue, spread religious tolerance, prevent hate speech against ethnic and religious minorities, hold perpetrators accountable and combat any discrimination against these minorities (Jordan);
- 65.46 Take concrete steps to combat any form of discrimination in law and practice against persons belonging to religious minorities and promote interfaith dialogue (Italy);
- 65.47 Take effective measures to ensure the full and effective implementation of existing legal provisions prohibiting racial discrimination (Turkmenistan);
- 65.48 Enhance measures to promote equality and eliminate all forms of discrimination based on ethnicity, gender, caste and any other grounds (Georgia);
- 65.49 Continue the process of constitutional reforms in order to ensure non-discrimination on any grounds (Kuwait);
- 65.50 Continue the process of constitutional reforms with a view to ensuring non-discrimination on any grounds (Algeria);
- 65.51 Continue furthering the process of constitutional reforms with a view to ensuring non-discrimination on any grounds (Hungary);
- 65.52 Continue the process of institutional reforms to ensure non-discrimination on any grounds (Azerbaijan);
- 65.53 Consider adopting a de jure moratorium on capital executions (Italy);
- 65.54 Maintain its de facto moratorium on the use of the death penalty and take steps towards its abolition, including the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (New Zealand);
- 65.55 Establish a moratorium on the use of, with a view to abolishing, the death penalty (France);

- 65.56 **Establish a moratorium on executions and commute all death sentences to prison sentences (Belgium);**
- 65.57 **Consider abolishing the death penalty (Timor-Leste);**
- 65.58 **Abolish the death penalty and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Latvia);**
- 65.59 **Promote the effective abolition of the death penalty by, among other things, ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Paraguay);**
- 65.60 **Transform the death penalty moratorium into definitive abolition and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Portugal);**
- 65.61 **Reform the Penal Code to formally abolish the death penalty (Brazil);**
- 65.62 **Abolish the death penalty (Iceland) (Slovenia);**
- 65.63 **Commute the 1,300 death sentences still in force, despite the fact that they have not been executed since 1976 (Spain);**
- 65.64 **Prevent and combat all forms of torture, enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention and ensure accountability for human rights violations and abuses (Italy);**
- 65.65 **Work to reduce prison overcrowding to ensure respect for international standards regarding the treatment of prisoners (Libya);**
- 65.66 **Provide answers and reparations to families of the disappeared in a transparent manner, keeping in mind their precarious situation (Finland);**
- 65.67 **Allow the immediate investigation of extrajudicial killings and excessive use of force committed by the security forces (Czechia);**
- 65.68 **Properly investigate and prosecute allegations of torture and extrajudicial killings by the police (Costa Rica);**
- 65.69 **Adopt a global policy to search for the disappeared and amend the Enforced Disappearances Act to include provisions on the protection of family members and witnesses (Colombia);**
- 65.70 **Reform the emergency legislation that allows for the deprivation of liberty in a wide variety of situations, leading to arbitrary detentions, as stated by the United Nations office in the country (Colombia);**
- 65.71 **Fully align legislation relating to the prevention and combating of terrorism with international human rights standards (Mexico);**
- 65.72 **Repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act and ensure that any replacement legislation conforms to the best practices of international human rights standards (Australia);**
- 65.73 **Review its counter-terrorism legislation, in particular the Prevention of Terrorism Act, to bring it into line with international human rights standards (Austria);**
- 65.74 **Repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act and release those detained under the Act (Belgium);**
- 65.75 **Repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act and ensure that any replacement legislation is compliant with the international human rights obligations of Sri Lanka (Canada);**

- 65.76 **Impose a moratorium on the use of the Prevention of Terrorism Act and revise the legislation by 2025 to comply with international human rights law (Czechia);**
- 65.77 **Repeal the current Prevention of Terrorism Act and ensure that all new legislation is in line with international obligations and does not infringe upon freedom of assembly and speech (Germany);**
- 65.78 **Apply an immediate moratorium on the use of the Prevention of Terrorism Act until its provisions are in full compliance with international human rights law (Ireland);**
- 65.79 **Develop comprehensive legislation on counter-terrorism, taking into account best practices on human rights (Japan);**
- 65.80 **Revise counter-terrorism legislation so that it is fully compliant with international human rights standards (Lithuania);**
- 65.81 **Continue to adapt the Prevention of Terrorism Act so that it is fully in line with international standards for the protection of human rights (Luxembourg);**
- 65.82 **Uphold its commitment to a de facto moratorium on the use of the Prevention of Terrorism Act and work to replace it in line with the international human rights obligations of Sri Lanka (New Zealand);**
- 65.83 **Repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act and, in the interim, establish a moratorium on its use (Norway);**
- 65.84 **Continue its policy to bring its national legislation in line with its international obligations (Russian Federation);**
- 65.85 **Replace the Prevention of Terrorism Act, cease arbitrary detentions for freedom of expression and ensure that legislation is aligned with international human rights standards (United States of America);**
- 65.86 **Avoid the abusive use of the Prevention of Terrorism Act of 1979 as a pretext to carry out arbitrary arrests, repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act and enact a new law in line with international standards (Spain);**
- 65.87 **Consider amending the Prevention of Terrorism Act to ensure the right to a fair trial, including regular access to legal counsel at all stages of the legal process (Malta);**
- 65.88 **Ensure respect for the human rights of all persons detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, ensure fair trials and immediately release all those arbitrarily detained (Switzerland);**
- 65.89 **Step up articulated measures conducive to structural reforms in key areas critical for economic growth, social stability and the rule of law, while keeping the respect for human rights at their core (Romania);**
- 65.90 **Work on advancing the independence and integrity of the judicial system (Estonia);**
- 65.91 **Expedite the investigation of cases of abduction, unlawful detention, torture and sexual violence by the security forces of Sri Lanka to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice (Botswana);**
- 65.92 **Promptly conduct independent and impartial investigations and prosecutions in all cases of human rights violations, including those perpetrated by law enforcement and military personnel (Canada);**
- 65.93 **Ensure that a new human rights national action plan is drafted, in follow-up to the previous one, and that commitments not yet met are pursued and implemented, particularly those meant to protect against gross violations of human rights (Romania);**

- 65.94 Carry out an inventory of the lands occupied by the military during the war, enact legislation establishing procedures for dispossessed and displaced persons to recover their lands and create a judicial accountability mechanism and a truth search mechanism (Colombia);
- 65.95 Pursue an inclusive national dialogue with all relevant stakeholders to advance the protection of human rights and revive the vital work on the truth and reconciliation and transitional justice processes (Ireland);
- 65.96 Pursue an effective transitional justice process to hold the perpetrators of gross human rights violations and abuses accountable and to uphold victims' rights to truth, justice and reparations (Austria);
- 65.97 Relaunch, as soon as possible, a general victim-focused strategy on transitional justice and accountability in relation to serious human rights violations committed during the conflict, with a plan with brief timelines to meet pending commitments, including the adoption of measures regarding the establishment of a credible truth-seeking mechanism and a special ad hoc court (Argentina);
- 65.98 Continue efforts to establish a truth and reconciliation commission, in cooperation with various stakeholders (Japan);
- 65.99 Continue the process to establish an independent and credible truth and reconciliation commission (Kenya);
- 65.100 Establish a truth commission and a judicial mechanism to advance investigations and prosecute perpetrators of atrocity crimes (Lithuania);
- 65.101 Ensure an effective transitional justice process to hold perpetrators of gross human rights violations and abuses accountable and to uphold victim's rights to truth, justice and reparations (Montenegro);
- 65.102 Ensure the Office on Missing Persons prioritizes, respects and facilitates the families' rights to truth, justice and reparations without exerting pressure on them to close the cases on their missing relatives (South Africa);
- 65.103 Ensure that the establishment of a national truth commission is done through an inclusive process of affected communities in accordance with international standards for dealing with the past (Switzerland);
- 65.104 Engage with all stakeholders in a participatory process to advance the country's ongoing process of reconciliation (Thailand);
- 65.105 Allow all communities to freely commemorate and memorialize victims of the civil war (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 65.106 Further strengthen efforts towards national reconciliation, while engaging constructively with all stakeholders (Viet Nam);
- 65.107 Continue efforts to achieve national reconciliation and guarantee public freedoms (Yemen);
- 65.108 Continue pursuing efforts aimed at national reconciliation, including through national initiatives (Algeria);
- 65.109 Fully implement a credible transitional justice and reconciliation mechanism consistent with Human Rights Council resolution 51/1 and renew commitments made under Council resolution 30/1 (Australia);
- 65.110 Fully leverage assistance provided by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to support the national reconciliation process (France);
- 65.111 Ensure the effective and independent operations of the Office on Missing Persons and the Office for Reparations, paying due regard to the demands and needs of those affected (Montenegro);

- 65.112 **Implement Human Rights Council resolutions 30/1, 46/1 and 51/1 promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**
- 65.113 **Continue pursuing efforts towards national reconciliation, including through national initiatives and by engaging constructively with all stakeholders (Nigeria);**
- 65.114 **Continue pursuing efforts aimed at national reconciliation, including through national initiatives (Pakistan);**
- 65.115 **Continue efforts aimed at achieving national reconciliation (Qatar);**
- 65.116 **Intensify peacebuilding and social reconciliation efforts (Sudan);**
- 65.117 **Continue to make further progress on reconciliation, taking into account domestic priorities and policies, including through engagement with the Sri Lankan diaspora (Hungary);**
- 65.118 **Effectively implement the Cabinet-approved national policy on reconciliation and coexistence in Sri Lanka (Türkiye);**
- 65.119 **Continue advancing national reconciliation through the implementation of the adopted national mechanisms (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 65.120 **Continue the cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, support the accountability project and ensure the independent work of the Office of Missing Persons and the Office for Reparations (Germany);**
- 65.121 **Continue efforts to promote the process of national reconciliation (Iraq);**
- 65.122 **Further strengthen efforts towards national reconciliation, while engaging in a constructive manner with all stakeholders (Niger);**
- 65.123 **Sustain efforts aimed at meaningful and sustainable national reconciliation, including by providing resources to the Office on Missing Persons, the Office for Reparations and the Office for National Unity and Reconciliation (Philippines);**
- 65.124 **Continue to engage constructively with all parties concerned in order to achieve national reconciliation (China);**
- 65.125 **Implement fully the recommendations in Human Rights Council resolution 51/1 and take steps to implement an inclusive transitional justice process in the country (Norway);**
- 65.126 **In accordance with resolution 51/1, constructively promote post-conflict reconciliation, domestic accountability and human rights (New Zealand);**
- 65.127 **Establish a comprehensive and victim-centred strategy on transitional justice and accountability, including an independent investigation and prosecution of international crimes committed during the civil war (Belgium);**
- 65.128 **Prepare and implement a comprehensive strategy on transitional justice and accountability and ensure the independence and effectiveness of the Office on Missing Persons and Office for Reparations (Croatia);**
- 65.129 **Allow the investigation and prosecution of those who may have committed violations of international humanitarian law and of human rights, guaranteeing access to truth, justice and reparation for the victims (Ecuador);**
- 65.130 **Prepare and implement a comprehensive strategy on transitional justice and accountability for alleged violations of human rights law and humanitarian law, with clearly defined timelines (Finland);**

- 65.131 **Allocate resources and technical means to the Office on Missing Persons and the Office for Reparations (Chile);**
- 65.132 **Provide adequate resources to the Office on Missing Persons and the Office for Reparations in order for them to perform their respective mandates efficiently and effectively (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 65.133 **Continue its efforts to build national unity and meaningful reconciliation, through robust and all-embracing activities that include training programmes and curricula for school children on understanding the cultural and religious values of different communities and on peace and reconciliation (Bahamas);**
- 65.134 **End impunity for human rights violations, abuses and harassment, especially against members of ethnic and religious minority communities, by holding those responsible to account, including security forces and government officials, and implementing commitments under Human Rights Council resolutions (United States of America);**
- 65.135 **Ensure impartial and effective investigations into attacks against minorities and strengthen policies that further protect their rights (Malaysia);**
- 65.136 **Ensure that any amendment to the Voluntary Social Service Organizations Act does not impede the ability of civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations to operate freely, independently and safely (Canada);**
- 65.137 **Cease the surveillance of journalists and human rights defenders by the intelligence services, the military and the police (Czechia);**
- 65.138 **Ensure that law enforcement authorities' use of force in response to protests is used as a last resort, proportionately and only when necessary and that any officials suspected of using unlawful force are brought to justice (Denmark);**
- 65.139 **Refrain from imposing undue limitation on non-governmental organizations and ensure that the planned non-governmental organization law is in line with international obligations (Germany);**
- 65.140 **Continue to take measures to ensure that the fundamental freedoms and human rights of all its citizens, in particular all Tamil-speaking citizens, are fully protected (India);**
- 65.141 **Continue efforts to protect the right of freedom of religion and belief for all persons in Sri Lanka, including the religious practice and expression (Indonesia);**
- 65.142 **Work to provide a propitious environment for the work of civil society organizations (Iraq);**
- 65.143 **Guarantee freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association and ensure a safe environment for civil society, including human rights defenders and journalists (Italy);**
- 65.144 **Ensure that the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly are guaranteed and that everyone, including journalists and human rights defenders, is allowed to express their opinion without fear of repercussion, through the disproportionate use of legal instruments or repressive actions (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**
- 65.145 **Work to protect its vibrant democracy by safeguarding freedom of expression and peaceful protest and continuing to hold timely elections as scheduled in law (New Zealand);**
- 65.146 **Promote interfaith dialogue and religious tolerance (Nigeria);**

- 65.147 Uphold the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and release all individuals who have been detained for participation in peaceful protests (Norway);
- 65.148 Ensure a climate in which all citizens are able to freely express their opinions and beliefs without fear of reprisals and retribution (Austria);
- 65.149 Continue its policy of zero tolerance of any act of hate or religious intolerance (Cuba);
- 65.150 Step up measures to avoid the disproportionate use of force against peaceful demonstrators by the military and security forces in the context of the current situation of large citizen mobilizations (Argentina);
- 65.151 Adopt and implement legislation to safeguard the rights to freedom of expression, opinion, association and peaceful assembly of human rights defenders, including journalists, environmentalists, women and religious leaders (Costa Rica);
- 65.152 Ensure, in line with international human rights law, the protection of women human rights defenders, including through human rights training of the police (Finland);
- 65.153 Adopt a public policy that promotes interreligious dialogue and tolerance and prevents radicalization, to counter hostility against religious minorities, especially Tamils (Costa Rica);
- 65.154 Fully implement the national action plan to combat human trafficking, 2021–2025 (Bangladesh);
- 65.155 Continue efforts to combat human trafficking (Georgia);
- 65.156 Enhance efforts to combat trafficking in persons (Nepal);
- 65.157 Increase efforts on strengthening the protection of children's rights in the areas of child labour, domestic violence and trafficking (Tajikistan);
- 65.158 Prohibit discrimination in hiring, enshrine in law equal pay for equal work and establish a minimum wage (Luxembourg);
- 65.159 Take up targeted action in protecting the rights of women, addressing the concern about the absence of legislation prescribing equal pay for work of equal value and of a legal prohibition of discrimination in hiring (Slovenia);
- 65.160 Review and repeal the discriminatory laws and policies which restrict equal access to the right to work for women (Romania);
- 65.161 Intensify efforts to eliminate the wage gap between women and men (Iraq);
- 65.162 Continue to strengthen measures to ensure access to social protection for vulnerable groups (Kuwait);
- 65.163 Further strengthen measures to guarantee effective access to social protection for vulnerable groups (Niger);
- 65.164 Continue reinforcing measures to ensure vulnerable groups access to social security (Saudi Arabia);
- 65.165 Continue strengthening measures that ensure effective access to social protection for vulnerable groups (Singapore);
- 65.166 Continue working with the government programme on social protection measures directed, especially, at the most vulnerable groups in society (Oman);
- 65.167 Speed up efforts to implement social protection measures to eradicate poverty, particularly to safeguard the most vulnerable groups in society, including women and children (Kenya);



- 65.168 **Strengthen measures to protect the economic and social rights of all without discrimination, including social protection for vulnerable groups (Thailand);**
- 65.169 **Continue to promote economic and social development to improve people's living standards and strengthen the social protection system (Syrian Arab Republic);**
- 65.170 **Step up efforts and continue introducing measures to reduce poverty and unemployment among its population, further aggravated since the beginning of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic (Serbia);**
- 65.171 **Continue efforts to promote social and economic development, with the aim of increasing the quality of life of people and eliminating poverty (Nepal);**
- 65.172 **Pursue the efforts made in the fight against poverty, through the implementation of national reforms in the education and health sectors (Morocco);**
- 65.173 **Continue efforts to combat poverty and strengthen the social security system for the most vulnerable groups (Libya);**
- 65.174 **Intensify efforts towards achieving poverty reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 65.175 **Enhance efforts to reduce poverty and guarantee sustainable development (Kuwait);**
- 65.176 **Continue its efforts to promote economic and social sustainable development and poverty reduction for the entire population (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 65.177 **Take all necessary measures to create and implement economic policies that prioritize the eradication of poverty throughout the country (Indonesia);**
- 65.178 **Continue with policy measures to strengthen the Sri Lankan economy and combat poverty and its impact on the vulnerable segments of the population, including Indian-origin Tamils (India);**
- 65.179 **Continue to create a well-functioning and well-established structure for livelihoods, social protection and alleviating poverty (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**
- 65.180 **Continue to promote economic and social development, to raise people's living standards and to strengthen the social security system (China);**
- 65.181 **Continue its efforts to promote sustainable economic and social development and reduce poverty for all of the population (Cameroon);**
- 65.182 **Continue its efforts to alleviate poverty and promote economic and social sustainable development (Cambodia);**
- 65.183 **Continue efforts to combat extreme poverty, within the Sustainable Development Goals framework (Brunei Darussalam);**
- 65.184 **Continue implementing programmes to provide social support to vulnerable groups of the population, reduce poverty and overcome other negative consequences of the economic crisis (Belarus);**
- 65.185 **Continue to implement more programmes to eradicate poverty and implement further mechanisms to improve combating human trafficking (Bahrain);**
- 65.186 **Accelerate efforts towards poverty reduction and sustainable development (Azerbaijan);**

- 65.187 Continue to promote economic and social development to raise people's living standard and strengthen the social protection system (Viet Nam);
- 65.188 Continue consolidating its successful social welfare measures in the fight against poverty to empower the most vulnerable and increase the quality of life of its people (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 65.189 Address concerns around land expropriation in the north and east by government departments, including the archaeological department, and related restrictions on access to land (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 65.190 Continue its efforts in promoting and protecting the rights to health, education, food and an adequate standard of living (Bhutan);
- 65.191 Strengthen efforts to protect and fulfil the right of an adequate standard of living, particularly for older persons and persons with disabilities (Indonesia);
- 65.192 Provide adequate resources to advance the quality of health services and health infrastructure to ensure access to basic medical services for all, especially vulnerable groups (United Arab Emirates);
- 65.193 Continue developing the health infrastructure to guarantee access for its population to basic health services (Cuba);
- 65.194 Put in place suitable mechanisms to prevent major health crises by sourcing essential medical supplies and medicines and ensuring the availability of immediate and essential life-saving medical care (South Africa);
- 65.195 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights for women and girls (Iceland);
- 65.196 Strengthen measures to guarantee access for girls, adolescents and women to adequate sexual and reproductive health services, including modern contraceptive methods (Mexico);
- 65.197 Implement the commitment made at the twenty-five-year review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to strengthen sexual and reproductive health education in schools and adolescent and youth-friendly health services, with the partnership of the Ministries of Health, Education, Vocational Training and Youth Affairs (Panama);
- 65.198 Take appropriate measures to ensure access to mental health services and conduct mental health awareness-raising campaigns to educate communities (Maldives);
- 65.199 Decriminalize abortion and legalize it in cases of rape (Iceland);
- 65.200 Further strengthen efforts in human rights training and education and improve awareness of human rights in the educational system (Tajikistan);
- 65.201 Continue efforts to provide equal access to quality education for all (Serbia);
- 65.202 Further strengthen training and education efforts in human rights (Burundi);
- 65.203 Continue to raise awareness of human rights among all groups, particularly the younger generations, through education and public training (Turkmenistan);
- 65.204 Continue human rights education and capacity-building programmes to ensure the strengthening of the investigative skills of prosecutors and police officers (Türkiye);

- 65.205 **Ensure equal access to education for women, children and persons with disabilities (United Arab Emirates);**
- 65.206 **Further ensure access to education for all children, including children with disabilities and children in rural areas (Syrian Arab Republic);**
- 65.207 **Continue guaranteeing access to education for all children, including those living in rural areas and those with disabilities (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 65.208 **Step up efforts to ensure access to quality education for all children, including children with disabilities and children in rural areas (Qatar);**
- 65.209 **Guarantee equality of access to education for women, children and people with disabilities (Cameroon);**
- 65.210 **Continue strengthening its policies to ensure access to education for all children, including those with disabilities and in rural areas (Singapore);**
- 65.211 **Continue efforts to ensure that all children have access to adequate education, including children with disabilities and children in rural areas (Egypt);**
- 65.212 **Ensure equal access to education for women, children and persons with disabilities (Nigeria);**
- 65.213 **Further strengthen programmes to ensure access to education for all children, especially those with disabilities (Pakistan);**
- 65.214 **Strengthen further measures to ensure equal access to education for all children including children with disabilities and children in rural areas (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 65.215 **Continue efforts to strengthen human rights, particularly within the framework of the environment and climate change (Bahrain);**
- 65.216 **Continue efforts to address the impacts of climate change and ensure the effective implementation of the national environmental action plan, 2022–2030 (Bhutan);**
- 65.217 **Continue working on the national environmental action plan, 2022–2030, which has been adopted in order to respond more effectively to emerging challenges to the environment (Oman);**
- 65.218 **Integrate the considerations related to climate change into the implementation of its national policies and plans of action (Burundi);**
- 65.219 **Implement policies aimed at overcoming challenges faced by climate change, in line with global targets (Maldives);**
- 65.220 **Continue the efforts to streamline personal laws, particularly for women and girls, with equality and end discrimination provisions of the constitution (Ethiopia);**
- 65.221 **Enhance women's participation in political, economic and public life (Egypt);**
- 65.222 **Reinforce mechanisms to address obstacles to the equal participation of women in political, economic and public life (Pakistan);**
- 65.223 **Step up efforts to enhance participation by women in political and public life (Malaysia);**
- 65.224 **Pursue measures that strengthen social protection of households headed by women and girls (Nigeria);**
- 65.225 **Proceed promptly with Cabinet approval of the national action plan on women and peace and security (Japan);**

- 65.226 Further intensify measures to advance women's rights, to promote the empowerment of women and their participation in the public and political life (Georgia);
- 65.227 Consider taking additional steps to increase women's representation at decision-making levels (Cambodia);
- 65.228 Strengthen efforts to protect women's rights, including by setting a quota to increase women's representation in leadership roles, in both the public and private sectors, as well as step up efforts to increase investment in gender equality and women's empowerment (Timor-Leste);
- 65.229 Continue to create favourable conditions for women to participate equally in political, economic and public life (China);
- 65.230 Continue its efforts to make progress in achieving gender equality and women's advancement in social, economic and political settings (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 65.231 Put an end to forced conversions and marriages of women and girls belonging to religious minorities, ensuring that those responsible are brought to justice (Spain);
- 65.232 Continue to economically and socially empower women to prevent all forms of gender-based violence and to contribute to the development of Sri Lankan society (Türkiye);
- 65.233 Adopt concrete initiatives to eradicate all types of gender-based violence and discrimination and implement fair reparation mechanisms for victims (Uruguay);
- 65.234 Continue strengthening institutions to intensify the fight against gender-based violence and educational prevention programmes in this area (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 65.235 Continue efforts to combat sexual and gender-based violence, including through gender-sensitization and training (Zambia);
- 65.236 Ensure that the police properly investigate all acts of gender-based violence, including marital violence (Costa Rica);
- 65.237 Put in place mechanisms to strengthen the laws prohibiting sexual and gender-based violence against women (Gambia);
- 65.238 Continue to ensure the prosecution of all forms of gender-based violence (Gambia);
- 65.239 Ensure the protection of women and men, girls and boys, from sexual harassment and gender-based violence, for example by adopting the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), of the International Labour Organization (Germany);
- 65.240 Take measures to criminalize marital rape and to prevent and punish domestic violence against women, including awareness-raising campaigns, legal services, support and shelter for survivors (Israel);
- 65.241 Remove all marital rape exceptions from laws criminalizing rape and require police to investigate and appropriately prosecute all acts of gender-based violence, including against a woman by her husband (Latvia);
- 65.242 Redouble efforts for the protection of women victims of gender-based violence in all its forms and manifestations (Paraguay);
- 65.243 Strengthen measures to eliminate all forms of violence against women, among other things, by criminalizing marital rape (Belgium);
- 65.244 Adopt a law prohibiting all forms of female genital mutilation and establish a national plan of action to eradicate the practice throughout the

country, including by allocating sufficient resources for prevention and education (Costa Rica);

65.245 Ensure investigation, punishment and reparations for cases of rape and sexual violence, including marital rape (Mexico);

65.246 Amend the legal definition of rape to include marital rape without exception (Costa Rica);

65.247 Recognize female genital mutilation as a violation of the rights of women and girls by strengthening its legislative framework, by creating multisectoral coordination mechanisms and adopting policies to prevent and eliminate all harmful practices (Burkina Faso);

65.248 Enhance efforts by law enforcement authorities to eradicate the practice of female genital mutilation (Israel);

65.249 Reform the Penal Code to protect against all forms of rape, including marital rape, and remove gender restrictions on the perpetrator and victim of rape (Iceland);

65.250 Strengthen measures to protect the rights of children, particularly to prevent child labour, hazardous forms of employment and violence against children (Zambia);

65.251 Take further measures to protect children from abuse, exploitation and child marriage (Bangladesh);

65.252 Continue ongoing initiatives in the protection of the rights of children (Brunei Darussalam);

65.253 Further strengthen measures, aiming to reinforce the rights of the child and the social protection of women (Burundi);

65.254 Take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect children from all forms of physical and mental violence, including sexual abuse, and ban the corporal punishment of children in all situations (Croatia);

65.255 Improve the protection of children, taking measures to prevent forced and early marriage and eliminate child labour (Israel);

65.256 Set the minimum age for marriage at 18 years without exception (Costa Rica);

65.257 Adjust the minimum age of criminal responsibility so that it is at least 14 years and take legal measures to ensure that children faced with criminal charges are guaranteed the right to legal representation (Denmark);

65.258 End all forms of violence and discrimination against women, including domestic violence, and child, early and forced marriage (Italy);

65.259 Explicitly prohibit the corporal punishment of children in law in all settings (Estonia);

65.260 Prohibit the corporal punishment of children in all forms and in any sphere of society, including the home and educational centres, and promote non-violent alternatives as disciplinary measures (Uruguay);

65.261 Abolish corporal punishment in law and in practice (Israel);

65.262 Take all necessary measures, both in law and in practice, to eliminate child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation and other harmful practices (Latvia);

65.263 Implement fully the national human rights action plan to prevent child abuse and to end corporal punishment (Lithuania);

- 65.264 Continue efforts to provide efficient social protection to low-income households and vulnerable groups, as well as equal access to quality education for all children (Malaysia);
- 65.265 Review the domestic laws that are discriminatory against women and prevent gender equality, in particular by establishing a minimum age of 18 years for marriage (Norway);
- 65.266 Undertake awareness-raising campaigns, targeting the tourism sector and the general population, on the prevention of the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism, with a wide dissemination of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism of the World Tourism Organization (Panama);
- 65.267 Enact laws to eradicate the sexual exploitation of girls, boys and adolescents in the context of tourism (Ecuador);
- 65.268 Pursue the development of various policies to ensure the full enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities (Turkmenistan);
- 65.269 Develop policies and programmes that promote and protect persons with disabilities and ensure their integration into society (Jordan);
- 65.270 Strengthen the national and local resources allocated to the required facilities for children with disabilities and enhance employment opportunities for persons with disabilities (Gambia);
- 65.271 Take administrative, legislative and other measures to guarantee Indigenous Peoples their fundamental rights, including the recognition of their legal status, access to land, linguistic identity, access to health, education and other fundamental rights (Paraguay);
- 65.272 Repeal sections 365 and 365A of the Penal Code, end the criminalization of same-sex conduct and ensure equality and non-discrimination in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 65.273 Ensure that the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons are respected and take steps to end discrimination and harassment of LGBTIQ+ communities, including by amending the Penal Code to decriminalize same-sex relations (United States of America);
- 65.274 Amend the Penal Code in order to decriminalize sexual conduct between consenting persons of the same sex and take concrete measures to combat discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Uruguay);
- 65.275 Repeal the regulatory framework and administrative acts that criminalize, restrict and stigmatize relationships between people of the same sex and/or gender, with a view to guaranteeing respect for the rights and fundamental freedoms of all members of the LGBTIQ community (Argentina);
- 65.276 Amend laws and policies to guarantee the equal rights of women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals, including by decriminalizing consensual same-sex conduct (Australia);
- 65.277 Decriminalize same-sex relations, by repealing Sections 365 and 365A of the Penal Code (Canada);
- 65.278 Continue efforts to guarantee the rights of LGBTIQ+ people, by considering a ban on conversion therapies and repealing laws that criminalize homosexuality (Chile);
- 65.279 Repeal all legal provisions criminalizing homosexuality (Costa Rica);
- 65.280 Repeal section 365A of the Penal Code, criminalizing homosexuality, and introduce legislation to prevent criminal and hateful behaviour towards LGBTIQ persons (Czechia);

- 65.281 Receive the visit requested by the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (France);
- 65.282 Decriminalize and legalize same-sex relations between consenting adults (Iceland);
- 65.283 Ensure that all persons can obtain or amend identity documents as per their self-perceived gender identity, free from medical or diagnostic requirements (Iceland);
- 65.284 Decriminalize same-sex activities in accordance with international human rights standards (Israel);
- 65.285 Increase steps taken to end discrimination based on sexual orientation and sexual identity, including through relevant legislation (Israel);
- 65.286 Repeal all laws that criminalise same-sex relations between consenting adults (Latvia);
- 65.287 Repeal articles 365 and 365A of the Penal Code and specific articles of other laws that criminalize homosexuality (Mexico);
- 65.288 Amend the Penal Code, particularly sections 365 and 365A, to decriminalize consensual same-sex conduct and displays of affection, and repeal the Vagrants Ordinance (Kingdom of the Netherlands);
- 65.289 Take further steps to eradicate all forms of discrimination and violence against minority communities, including women, girls, disabled people and the LGBTIQ+ communities (New Zealand);
- 65.290 Repeal sections 365 and 365A of the Penal Code and sections of other laws that criminalize homosexuality (Norway);
- 65.291 Review legislation to fully guarantee the right to equality and non-discrimination, particularly concerning decriminalization and non-discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (Brazil);
- 65.292 Introduce legal provisions that ensure that all rape and non-consensual sexual acts are recognised in law as illegal regardless of sexual orientation or gender (Malta);
- 65.293 Strengthen measures to protect the rights of migrants and refugees (Morocco);
- 65.294 Ensure the socioeconomic growth of, and address the marginalization faced by, the formerly stateless Tamils of Indian origin in the country (South Africa).
66. 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 Sri Lanka was headed by the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ali Sabry, and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Ms. Himalee Arunatilaka – Ambassador/Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka;
  - Ms. Chandima Wickramasinghe – Addl. Secretary to President;
  - Mr. Nerin Pulle – Addl. Solicitor General, Attorney-General’s Department of Sri Lanka;
  - Ms. Dayani Mendis – Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka;
  - Ms. Rekha Gunasekera – Director General/UN & HR, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
  - Ms. Dilini Gunasekera – Director/ UN & HR, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
  - Ms. Dilini Lenagala – Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka;
  - Ms. Udani Gunawardena – Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka;
  - Ms. Thilini Jayasekara – Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka;
  - Ms. Samantha Jayasuriya – UPR Consultant.
-