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Universal periodic review

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

### Ecuador

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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-first session from 7 to 18 November 2022. The review of Ecuador was held at the 2nd meeting, on 7 November 2022. The delegation of Ecuador was headed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, Juan Carlos Holguín. At its 10th meeting, held on 11 November 2022, the Working Group adopted the report on Ecuador.
2. On 12 January 2022, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Ecuador: Honduras, Germany and Kazakhstan.
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 Ecuador:
  - (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 Belgium, Canada, Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama and Portugal, on behalf of 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 Ecuador 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. The delegation of Ecuador thanked all States that had expressed solidarity with Ecuador following recent terrorist acts that had occurred in the country at the hands of transnational criminal structures. It stressed that human rights were fundamental to its identity, having ratified 27 legally binding international human rights instruments and adapted legislation accordingly. Since 2008, international human rights instruments had the same status as the Constitution and were, therefore, of mandatory compliance for the State. Ecuador was also committed to establishing the Ministry of Women and Human Rights.
6. Its national report was developed using the SIDERECHOS platform, whose establishment was one of the voluntary commitments made by Ecuador during the previous universal periodic review cycle. Since 2003, Ecuador had maintained an open invitation to the special procedure mandate holders and, in recent years, it had received several visits. The delegation expressed gratitude for the recent visit of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which had observed the challenges faced by the country's penitentiary system.
7. As one of the countries most affected by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, Ecuador had prioritized the implementation of a successful vaccination programme through its national COVID-19 vaccination plan, vaccinating 9 million people in 100 days, with priority care provided for vulnerable groups. An intercultural vaccination process was implemented in the Indigenous Waorani communities, located in the Tagaeri Taromenane Intangible Zone.

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<sup>1</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/41/ECU/1](#).

<sup>2</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/41/ECU/2](#).

<sup>3</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/41/ECU/3](#).

8. With regard to refugee protection, Ecuador had granted refugee status to 74,263 people as of October 2022. In 2021, the Organic Act amending the Organic Act on Human Mobility was adopted to uphold the constitutional requirement of equality and non-discrimination for all people regardless of migratory status. The same law established a prevention and protection framework for victims of trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling.

9. The delegation stressed that gender-based violence was a worldwide pandemic, and Ecuador was no exception. For that reason, the country had adopted the Integral Organic Law for the Prevention and Eradication of Gender-based Violence against Women and established the Comprehensive National System for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence. Ecuador also adopted the national plan for the prevention and eradication of violence against women, 2020–2030, and established a Central Registry of Violence, a technological tool that would allow for the gathering of data to guide public policies. The Government had also granted social aid to minors orphaned as a result of the violent death of their mothers.

10. Ecuador had implemented a participatory programme for the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence that included training families and students. The Organic Law to guarantee the voluntary interruption of pregnancy for girls, adolescents and women, guaranteed the right to the voluntary interruption of pregnancy in the case of sexual violence for women, girls and adolescents.

11. Ecuador considered freedom of expression an inalienable right. In 2021, the Organic Law on Freedom of Expression and Communication, which provided for the defence, promotion and guarantee of freedoms of expression, communication and media in all fields, was sent to the National Assembly. The new law eliminated all the risk of censorship and self-censorship that existed in national legislation. Ecuador had also established a protection system for journalists and media personnel and implemented measures guaranteeing universal access to information and communications technologies.

12. The delegation stressed that addressing the structural problems within the penitentiary system was a national priority. Ecuador had developed its first Penitentiary Census and had adopted the public policy on social rehabilitation, 2022–2025, with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Ecuador highlighted several measures that had already been taken, such as the granting of pardons to people deprived of liberty and the implementation of a plan to streamline access to penitentiary benefits, which had resulted in the reduction of overcrowding from 26 per cent to 8 per cent.

13. With regard to public security, the Government had implemented a peace and security strategy with two objectives. The first objective was to generate preventive public policies to protect citizens, especially children and young people, from criminal structures and drug trafficking. The second was aimed at providing law enforcement agencies with the capabilities necessary to guarantee peace and security in line with human rights standards. Ecuador conducted permanent training for the national police on issues related to human rights and the use of force and had approved a bill on the progressive use of force.

14. Ecuador had increased the average monthly investment in the areas of education, health, social welfare, housing and work from \$8.1 billion between 2010 and 2016 to \$13 billion under the current Administration. In addition, the implementation of several laws and regulations have led to a reduction in poverty levels in the post-pandemic period. Ecuador promoted universal access to social security through the national social security system.

15. Since 2019, the social registry collected socioeconomic and demographic data, to identify families experiencing poverty, which allowed the Government to ensure that benefits were distributed to the most vulnerable persons. A critical component of that approach was the census currently being conducted.

16. In line with the objective to reduce the rates of chronic childhood malnutrition among children under 2 years of age by 6 per cent by 2025, Ecuador had developed a public policy and a national early childhood strategy addressing chronic childhood malnutrition. It had also carried out a malnutrition census, established national care brigades and increased prenatal control coverage.

17. The establishment of the Secretariat for the Management and Advancement of Peoples and Nationalities, in 2021, which was responsible for the implementation of the public policy relating to peoples and nationalities, marked an important step in guaranteeing the human rights of all Ecuadorian peoples. The Government had also developed the Agenda for the Equal Rights of Indigenous Nationalities and Peoples, the Afro-Ecuadorian People and the Montubio People, which was aimed at guaranteeing their right to be consulted regarding any plan or programme for the prospecting, exploitation or commercialization of non-renewable resources.

18. The delegation highlighted the importance of the adoption of a legally binding instrument on business and human rights, whose negotiation was being led by Ecuador. It was also working on a national action plan on business and human rights.

19. The delegation concluded by highlighting progress made in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, including by ensuring access to comprehensive care and rehabilitation services and the provision of special health-care services nationwide.

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

20. During the interactive dialogue, 70 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

21. Portugal commended the decisions of the Constitutional Court of Ecuador to decriminalize the voluntary termination of pregnancy in cases of rape and to allow for civil marriage between same-sex couples. It also welcomed the adoption by Ecuador of an action plan to implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

22. Qatar commended the commitment of Ecuador to comply with its human rights obligations, which was reflected in the ratification of the majority of the international human rights instruments and its standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

23. Romania appreciated the openness of Ecuador to multilateralism and its adoption of legislative amendments and administrative measures to ensure, among other things, better protection of the rights of persons in vulnerable situations. It noted, however, that the implementation process remained challenging.

24. Slovenia noted the steps taken by Ecuador to promote and protect the rights of older persons, including the provision of care to older persons in situations of poverty. It called upon Ecuador to strengthen its efforts to address and reduce femicide.

25. South Africa commended Ecuador on the opportunity creation plan, 2021–2025, which was aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and was focused on five thematic components, namely, economic policy, social policy, comprehensive security, ecological transition and institutional measures.

26. Spain encouraged Ecuador to adopt a legal framework to ensure the protection of human rights defenders and journalists, in consultation with civil society, and to carry out a study on further measures to combat crime, which would not imply preventive detention, accompanied by a reform of the penitentiary system that would end overcrowding and prison violence.

27. The State of Palestine commended the efforts made by Ecuador in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

28. Switzerland welcomed the delegation of Ecuador and thanked it for its presentation.

29. Timor-Leste welcomed the progress made by Ecuador since its last review, including the legal reform to harmonize the national legal system with the international human rights commitments of the country and the adoption of the Human Mobility Act.

30. Tunisia expressed appreciation for the steps taken by Ecuador to implement the recommendations emanating from the previous review cycle. It welcomed the measures taken

to strengthen the human rights system, especially with regard to combating violence against women and promoting gender equality.

31. Türkiye expressed appreciation for the progress achieved by Ecuador in the field of human rights, in particular on women's rights. It welcomed the President's decision to transform the Secretariat for Human Rights into the Ministry for Women and Human Rights.

32. Ukraine noted with appreciation the steps taken by Ecuador to change the approach used in detention centres, the recent adoption of the social rehabilitation policy and the efforts to address gender-based violence.

33. The United Kingdom welcomed the willingness of Ecuador to enshrine human rights protections in legislation and urged the Government to ensure that the implementation and enforcement of human rights protections kept up with legislation.

34. The United Republic of Tanzania commended Ecuador on its measures to protect the environment and encouraged it to complete the central registry of incidents of violence, continue efforts to reduce poverty.

35. The United States expressed concern over prison gang riots, press freedom and policies towards political activities of civil society. It commended the support of Ecuador for human rights and individual political rights.

36. Uruguay welcomed the efforts made by Ecuador, including the adoption of the opportunity creation plan, 2021–2025, in the area of equality and non-discrimination.

37. Uzbekistan welcomed the measures taken by Ecuador to minimize the negative impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on vulnerable groups. It also welcomed the adoption of a number of laws to strengthen human rights and the policy on social rehabilitation, 2022–2025.

38. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expressed concern over the systematic violations of human rights in Ecuador, including the structural discrimination against Indigenous Peoples, campesinos, domestic workers and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people, which were exacerbated during the pandemic, and over the human trafficking in the country.

39. Viet Nam appreciated the commitment of Ecuador to fulfilling its human rights obligations and welcomed the measures taken to implement previous recommendations. Viet Nam commended the efforts taken by the country to promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

40. Algeria welcomed the adoption of the opportunity creation plan, 2021–2025, which was aimed at promoting the right to comprehensive, free, intercultural, high-quality health care and the development of an innovative and inclusive education system at all levels.

41. Argentina commended the ratification by Ecuador of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazù Agreement).

42. Armenia appreciated the measures taken by Ecuador to implement previous recommendations, the launch of policies for social rehabilitation and the efforts to promote national systems for the prevention of violence and to counter violence in schools.

43. Australia acknowledged the measures taken by Ecuador to ensure the protection of free speech, such as the proposed amendments to the Organic Law on Communication, and the granting of amnesties to human rights defenders, environmental activists and Indigenous leaders.

44. Azerbaijan commended the legislative measures taken by Ecuador to eradicate poverty and promote the sustainable and equitable redistribution of resources, as well as the adoption of the opportunity creation plan, 2021–2025, and the development of a “purple economy” for promoting the economic rights of women.

45. Bahamas congratulated Ecuador on the opportunity creation plan, 2021–2025, and the action plan against trafficking in persons, 2019–2030. It also commended the efforts to

improve health infrastructure, promote universal access to education and reduce pregnancy among children.

46. Bangladesh commended the efforts made by Ecuador to implement previous recommendations, its adoption of the opportunity creation plan, 2021–2025, to promote sustainability and address climate change and the amendment of the Organic Code of the Judiciary to reinforce judicial independence.

47. Barbados was of the view that strengthening democratic institutions and ensuring participation in social and economic development were fundamental to the promotion and enjoyment of human rights in Ecuador.

48. Belarus noted the measures taken by Ecuador to further improve national legislation and strengthen institutions involved in the promotion and protection of human rights.

49. Belgium welcomed the efforts made by Ecuador since the previous review, in particular with regard to freedom of expression and the adoption of a policy for the protection of journalists. However, it was of the view that progress could still be made.

50. Brazil commended the approval by Ecuador of the opportunity creation plan, which integrated a comprehensive approach to human rights. It also welcomed the amendments to the human mobility law, which would facilitate the reception of refugees and stateless persons, and acknowledged the draft law on freedom of expression and communication.

51. Canada noted positively the measures taken by Ecuador to revise the Organic Code of the Judiciary in order to ensure the independence of the judiciary.

52. Chile applauded the progress achieved by Ecuador in the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and congratulated the country for the establishment of the Under-Secretariat for Diversities to address issues related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people.

53. China welcomed the efforts by Ecuador to improve living standards, promote employment, develop education and health care, strengthen social security, protect the rights of vulnerable groups and advocate for the coexistence between humans and nature.

54. Colombia welcomed the progress and achievements of Ecuador in the area of human rights and highlighted the country's comprehensive legislative and policy framework for the elimination of discrimination against women.

55. Costa Rica commended the approval by Ecuador of the public policy for social rehabilitation and the opportunity creation plan, the efforts to reduce gender-based violence and prevent sexual violence and the implementation of training courses on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

56. In reply to the issues raised during the interactive dialogue, the delegation highlighted that, after two years of distance education, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government was increasing coverage of free, inclusive and quality education. Student enrolment in the national education system had increased, and Ecuador had established programmes to actively search for students who had been left out of the education system. The return to in-person schooling from June 2021 was accompanied by a plan to improve the educational infrastructure of the more than 12,300 public schools in the country, with an investment of \$200 million in 2022 that would reach \$650 million by 2025. Ecuador also promoted greater inclusion in higher education through, inter alia, a new scholarship fund and the elimination of the single entrance exam for public universities.

57. Since May 2021, Ecuador had reopened 200 rural schools and issued educational materials with cultural and linguistic relevance to strengthen bilingual intercultural education for various peoples and nationalities. After the recent peace agreements, that type of education was granted greater technical and financial autonomy, with the establishment of the Secretariat of Bilingual Intercultural Education and Ethno-Education and the Plurinational Council of Intercultural Bilingual Education. Ecuador had also created the Directorate of Ethno-Education of the Afro-Ecuadorian People and developed educational material that incorporated the knowledge and wisdom of Indigenous Peoples into the national curriculum.

58. In 2021, the Government had presented its rural equity plan to provide quality infrastructure and services to rural areas in education, health care, drinking water, connectivity and security. In the past year, rural poverty had reduced from 49.2 per cent to 42.4 per cent. In addition, the opportunity creation plan, 2021–2025, was aimed at generating new opportunities, with an emphasis on Indigenous Peoples and nationalities.

59. Ecuador had committed to protect the human rights of children and, through the Ministry of Inclusion and Economic and Social Development, it had raised awareness to eradicate corporal punishment as a form of parenting and had developed a law on the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents. In 2021, the criminal law was reformed to modify the crimes of child pornography and psychological violence against women or other members of the family and to criminalize bullying in the education system. It had in place a public policy that was aimed at preventing and eradicating child labour and, to address the root causes of the problem, promoted the employability of parents of children and adolescents at risk of child labour.

60. Ecuador had undertaken actions to promote and protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, such as through the establishment of an institution in charge of developing and implementing a public policy for those populations, the approval of the action plan on diversity, 2022–2025, developed together with numerous activists from among those groups, and the inclusion of a gender variable on the living conditions of those populations in the Population and Housing Census.

61. Côte d'Ivoire praised measures undertaken by Ecuador to implement international commitments and cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, in particular by establishing the national councils responsible for promoting the rights to equality and non-discrimination.

62. Cuba welcomed the efforts made by Ecuador to implement the recommendations that it had received in the previous review cycles. It recognized the leading role of Ecuador in developing a binding instrument on transnational corporations and human rights and reiterated its full support for that process.

63. Denmark welcomed the adoption by Ecuador of a comprehensive legislative and policy framework for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls and the initiative to increase the number of women candidates standing for election in 2025. It remained concerned about gender-based violence against women politicians and against Indigenous women and girls.

64. Djibouti welcomed the efforts by Ecuador to bring its national legislation into conformity with international standards and the measures to strengthen women's rights and to adopt a public policy for social reintegration to tackle prison overcrowding.

65. Egypt noted with appreciation the cooperation of Ecuador with the United Nations mechanisms, its commitment to submitting reports to the United Nations treaty bodies and its efforts to combat violence.

66. Estonia praised the achievements of Ecuador in complying with its international human rights obligations, including in the field of freedom of expression and protection of journalists. It noted the measures to offer online education programmes during the COVID-19 pandemic, but it regretted that there was an increase in the bullying of girls and women online.

67. France welcomed the progress made in Ecuador, in particular in ensuring the transparency of the latest electoral process, and noted that the human rights situation remained fragile.

68. Gambia welcomed the comprehensive social protection system of Ecuador, which provided special protection to persons with disabilities, and the country's efforts to formulate an agenda for the period 2021–2025 to guide public and private efforts relating to persons with disabilities.

69. Georgia welcomed the adoption by Ecuador of the action plan against trafficking in persons and related activities, the drafting of the Organic Code for the protection of children and adolescents and the steps taken to prevent violence against women.

70. Germany appreciated the improvements made by Ecuador concerning environmental protection and freedom of opinion, as well as the measures taken towards the reduction of poverty and against the discrimination of persons with disabilities and older persons. Germany remained concerned about the overcrowding of prisons.
71. Greece welcomed the efforts made by Ecuador to implement the recommendations received during the previous universal periodic review cycle, in particular the promotion of the sustainable use of resources and the efforts to reduce illegal mining. Greece also appreciated the priority that Ecuador had given to the fight against all forms of malnutrition.
72. Honduras noted with satisfaction the creation by Ecuador of the public policy on the purple economy for the economic rights and a life free of violence for women, which was aimed at reducing gender inequality. It congratulated Ecuador on the formulation of the plan for the creation of opportunities, 2021–2025, which aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
73. Iceland made recommendations.
74. India welcomed the efforts made by Ecuador in tackling the crisis of the prison system and its strengthening of the legal framework to prevent trafficking and protect the victims of trafficking. It also commended the efforts to prevent and eradicate violence against women through the national plan for the period 2019–2025.
75. Indonesia appreciated the leadership of Ecuador in the elaboration of a legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights. It commended the efforts of Ecuador to protect the right to vote for persons with disabilities and the project for overseas voting procedures.
76. The Islamic Republic of Iran highlighted the positive aspects of the opportunity creation plan, 2021–2025, especially in the fields of fighting against all forms of malnutrition and promoting universal access to social security.
77. Iraq welcomed the cooperation by Ecuador with the international human rights mechanisms, including through the issuance of a standing invitation to the special procedure of the Human Rights Council.
78. Ireland welcomed the adoption by Ecuador of the national equality agenda for women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, for the period 2021–2025. It regretted the high levels of reported violence against women and girls and the persistence of gender-discriminatory and stereotyped attitudes and behaviours.
79. Italy welcomed the efforts by Ecuador to improve the protection of freedom of expression, including through the amendment of the Organic Law on Communication.
80. Kazakhstan appreciated the efforts by Ecuador to implement the recommendations received during the previous cycles of the universal periodic review and commended the work done for the promotion and protection of all human rights.
81. Lebanon welcomed the adoption by Ecuador of the agenda, for the period 2022–2025, aiming at the eradication of violence, discrimination and all forms of exclusion, racism and related intolerance, and of the national action plan for the period 2019–2025, for the prevention and eradication of violence against women.
82. Luxembourg thanked Ecuador for the presentation of its national report.
83. Malaysia commended Ecuador on the steps taken to better comply with its human rights obligations, including through the submission of voluntary mid-term reports and the strengthening of follow-up mechanisms. It welcomed the efforts made by Ecuador to protect the rights of women and children.
84. Maldives commended the progress made by Ecuador since the last review cycle and welcomed the establishment of the Human Rights Information System and the legal reforms undertaken to harmonize its national legal system with the new constitutional provisions and its international human rights obligations.



85. Mauritius applauded the efforts of Ecuador aimed at ensuring universal access to education, including by providing increased access to education and improving the quality thereof.
86. Mexico recognized the ratification by Ecuador of the Escazù Agreement and welcomed the measures taken to promote respect for, and the protection of, the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people. It encouraged Ecuador to continue strengthening those initiatives.
87. Montenegro commended the reforms undertaken by Ecuador to eliminate discrimination against women, but echoed the concerns of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women regarding particular legislative challenges related to discrimination faced by Indigenous women. It recognized the efforts made to better protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people.
88. Namibia noted the introduction of changes to the Comprehensive National System of Ecuador, to prevent and eradicate gender-based violence, and commended the concrete steps taken by the country to provide assistance to the victims of gender-based violence.
89. Nepal noted positively the implementation by Ecuador of the national plan for the prevention and eradication of violence against women, for the period 2019–2025, and the adoption of the opportunity creation plan. Nepal appreciated the adoption of the Organic Act on Human Mobility, aimed at combating trafficking in persons.
90. The Netherlands commended Ecuador on concluding agreements with Indigenous organizations, but it was concerned about the remaining problems regarding sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls and members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex communities.
91. Pakistan commended the cooperation of Ecuador with the universal periodic review mechanism and appreciated the efforts made by the country to strengthen its social protection system and ensure universal health care and free-of-charge access to vaccines.
92. Panama welcomed the delegation of Ecuador and thanked the country for the presentation of its national report.
93. Paraguay valued the efforts made by Ecuador on the protection of women who are victims of violence, its initiatives aimed at ensuring judicial independence and the use of the SIDERECHOS platform in drafting its national report.
94. Peru recognized the advances made by Ecuador, including increased access to education, the adoption of the public policy on social rehabilitation and the relaunching of the SIDERECHOS platform.
95. The Philippines acknowledged the measures taken by Ecuador to address the crisis in its prison system by shifting to an approach based on human rights and social rehabilitation. It expressed support for the role of Ecuador in the negotiations on transnational corporations and human rights.
96. The delegation stressed that Ecuador respected the right to peaceful protest. During the protests that had taken place in June, the police had accompanied and escorted the peaceful demonstrations, employing the progressive use of force exclusively when demonstrators had carried out violent actions. The police acted within a framework of absolute respect for human rights, generating safe spaces for protesters, especially women and children.
97. In order to put an end to the demonstrations that had paralyzed the country for 18 days, the Government had called for a dialogue with social and Indigenous organizations that had concluded with the signing, on 30 June, of what was known as the “peace agreement” and the creation of 10 technical groups to address the demands of protesters. That had been an unprecedented and historic process of dialogue, with the Catholic Church serving as guarantor of the agreements. While many years of neglect and inequities were difficult to address in such a short time, the delegation stressed that the dialogue marked a milestone in terms of the relationship between public power and the different social organizations, as well

as the beginning of a different version of an inclusive and multicultural Ecuador – a public policy based on a shared vision.

98. Ecuador reaffirmed its commitment to guarantee human rights, equality and non-discrimination among all its inhabitants, preserve the environment and promote the inclusion of Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, as well as protect the rights of people in the context of human mobility. It would continue to work for the prevention and eradication of all types of violence, with an emphasis on priority groups, such as children and adolescents, the elderly, members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex populations and persons deprived of their liberty and in particular women.

99. The delegation concluded by thanking all delegations for their comments and recommendations that would contribute to the promotion of human rights in Ecuador.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

100. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Ecuador and enjoy the support of Ecuador:**

100.1 **Ratify as soon as possible the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and strengthen the juvenile justice system on the basis of the principles established by the Convention (Luxembourg);**

100.2 **Consider the ratification of the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) of the International Labour Organization (Uzbekistan);**

100.3 **Improve its national mechanism for the implementation of, and reporting and follow-up on, recommendations on human rights and consider the possibility of receiving cooperation for this purpose, within the framework of Sustainable Development Goals 16 and 17 (Paraguay);**

100.4 **Take all necessary measures to strengthen the national human rights institution within the framework of the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Uzbekistan);**

100.5 **Continue efforts to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination and violence against persons belonging to minorities, Indigenous People and other persons and groups in vulnerable situations (Italy);**

100.6 **Take effective measures to combat all forms of discrimination, especially racism and racial discrimination against Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Ecuadorians (Djibouti);**

100.7 **Intensify efforts to combat racial discrimination and adopt measures to combat racial prejudice in the media (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

100.8 **Take the necessary measures to intensify awareness campaigns to combat all forms of discrimination and adopt measures to combat racial prejudices in the media (Côte d'Ivoire);**

100.9 **Intensify awareness-raising campaigns and take measures to fight racial discrimination in the media (Iraq);**

100.10 **Sustain efforts to improve security and living conditions in prisons (Türkiye); Make further steps to reforming the penitentiary system, including the improvement of the living conditions of prisoners, with an emphasis on rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes (Armenia); Continue measures aimed at addressing conditions in the prison system, including through the approach based on human rights and rehabilitation (Azerbaijan);**

100.11 **Continue to make progress in the implementation of the public policy on social rehabilitation, 2022–2025, which allows for the promotion of a human**

rights and social rehabilitation approach in the penitentiary system (Cuba); Take additional measures aimed at improving the penitentiary system and developing mechanisms for social rehabilitation (Belarus); Continue working for the implementation of the public policy for social rehabilitation, in the light of the penitentiary crisis (Brazil);

100.12 Undertake appropriate measures in order to reduce the occurrence of violence and deaths in the prison system (Bangladesh);

100.13 Take further steps to implement a comprehensive policy to address prison violence (Ukraine);

100.14 Continue efforts to improve the situation of prisons, combat violence in prisons and rehabilitate prisoners (Iraq); Adopt adequate measures with a view to reducing the deadly violence in the penitentiary system (Romania);

100.15 Continue progressing towards a consolidated policy to safeguard the rights of persons deprived of liberty, especially with regard to their personal integrity, and to put an end to prison overcrowding (Chile);

100.16 Continue to intensify efforts towards the effective management of prison systems (India);

100.17 Undertake efforts to address the levels of serious violence in prisons, including by considering the road map set out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the improvement of security in prisons (Ireland);

100.18 Reform the penitentiary system, in particular through the effective implementation of reintegration policies (France);

100.19 Allocate additional resources to increase security and social services in prisons (United States of America);

100.20 Continue training and building the capacities of law enforcement forces in the field of human rights (Egypt);

100.21 Invest in training and the capacity of prison staff, as well as measures that would shorten pretrial detention, in order to decrease the overcrowding of prisons (Germany);

100.22 Take steps to ensure and protect the full independence and impartiality of the judiciary (Estonia);

100.23 Continue to bring about further judicial reforms and promote the independence of the judiciary (Pakistan);

100.24 Adopt the necessary measures to guarantee the effective application of due process guarantees and access to justice (Argentina);

100.25 Continue strengthening the training programmes for judges and lawyers (Uruguay); Strengthen appropriate measures to train and raise the awareness of public officials of the judiciary on human rights issues (Greece);

100.26 Conduct promptly thorough, independent and impartial investigations into the deaths of detainees, establish criminal and administrative responsibilities and ensure truth, justice and reparations for victims (Switzerland);

100.27 Enhance efforts to provide human rights training and awareness raising programmes to law enforcement officials, the judiciary and the media (India);

100.28 Ensure access to justice for Indigenous women and girls in both the ordinary and the Indigenous systems (Denmark);

100.29 Build an enabling environment for civil society, including by considering the adoption of a comprehensive legal framework for civil society

organizations, human rights defenders and journalists (Romania); Adopt legislation and implement comprehensive policies for the protection of human rights defenders, including environmental defenders, activists and journalists (Costa Rica); Consider the adoption of a framework to promote the protection of journalists and human rights defenders (Greece); Intensify efforts to ensure that human rights defenders enjoy a safe and appropriate environment (Peru);

100.30 Undertake legal reforms and administrative measures with a view to ensuring that the freedoms of expression, opinion and association and the right to peaceful assembly are in line with international standards and best practices (Romania);

100.31 Establish a legal framework for the protection of human rights defenders and Indigenous People in isolation, that allows them access to justice in cases in which private companies abuse criminal and civil law against them, as well as provide reparation measures for victims and their families (Netherlands);

100.32 Adopt measures to prevent violence against human rights defenders, especially Afro-Ecuadorians and Indigenous Peoples (Côte d'Ivoire);

100.33 Implement measures to ensure the safety of journalists, including by guaranteeing the right of journalists to protect their sources (Namibia);

100.34 Implement a comprehensive policy for the protection of human rights defenders, including a protocol to investigate threats and attacks against them, by consulting them appropriately (Switzerland);

100.35 Protect human rights defenders and ensure effective investigations into threats and attacks against human rights defenders (Slovenia);

100.36 Ensure respect for freedom of expression and guarantee the safety of journalists by protecting them against threats (France);

100.37 Safeguard people's right to peaceful assembly and, where protests turn violent, and the lawful use of force and firearms is unavoidable, ensure that the response by law enforcement is reasonable, necessary and proportionate (Australia);

100.38 Pass a new communications law that promotes freedom of expression without undue restrictions, based on President Lasso's partial veto of the restrictive July 2022 version of the 2013 Organic Communications Law (United States of America);

100.39 Amend Presidential Decree No. 193 to ensure that speech that is critical of the Government has no bearing on civil society groups' ability to operate freely (United States of America);

100.40 Work with the media sector to provide greater legal and practical protection to journalists to enable them to fulfil their role free from the risk of harassment and attacks, including online (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

100.41 Continue its efforts to guarantee voting rights for all (Pakistan);

100.42 Establish a specialized protection mechanism for human rights defenders that includes a gender-based approach, a differential ethnic approach and issues of a collective nature aimed at protecting defenders of the territory, nature, environment and land rights (Honduras);

100.43 Advance in the effective implementation of the decision of the Constitutional Court of Ecuador on equal civil marriage (Argentina);

100.44 Allocate sufficient resources for the implementation of the national action plan for the elimination of human trafficking, 2019–2030 (Portugal);

- 100.45 **Step up efforts to combat human trafficking and implement the relevant national action plan (Egypt); Continue implementing effective measures for the prevention of trafficking in persons (Nepal);**
- 100.46 **Develop standard operating procedures that incorporate human rights and gender approaches to facilitate the rapid identification and referral to the asylum system of victims of trafficking in persons who might be in need of international protection (Panama);**
- 100.47 **Strengthen the opportunity for women to acquire access to posts in the public sector and narrow the wage gap between women and men (Iraq);**
- 100.48 **Enhance women's access to formal employment and enforce equal pay for work of equal value (Iceland);**
- 100.49 **Adopt measures to reduce unemployment (State of Palestine);**
- 100.50 **Boost human, technical and financial resources for the implementation in the short-term of a national strategy to prevent and intervene on all forms of malnutrition, mainly in rural areas with Indigenous populations (Honduras);**
- 100.51 **Continue implementing the national strategy called "Ecuador grows without child undernutrition" to prevent and reduce chronic child undernutrition (Algeria);**
- 100.52 **Continue to undertake efforts to eliminate chronic malnutrition and under nutrition, particularly in remote rural areas (Bangladesh);**
- 100.53 **Step up efforts to address the issue of childhood malnutrition, particularly in rural areas (Indonesia);**
- 100.54 **Continue its efforts to eradicate childhood malnutrition and improve the situation of children as set forth in the opportunity creation plan, 2021–2025, (Tunisia); Ensure the financial sustainability of efforts to address chronic childhood malnutrition, including for Indigenous Peoples and rural populations (Bahamas);**
- 100.55 **Continue making every effort to strengthen the social protection system and optimize measures aimed at reducing poverty, in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal 1 (Paraguay);**
- 100.56 **Continue to strengthen initiatives to provide an effective response to the situation of food insecurity and childhood malnutrition, particularly in rural areas (India);**
- 100.57 **Further improve people's livelihoods and strengthen the social security system (China);**
- 100.58 **Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development and reduce the number of people in poverty (China);**
- 100.59 **Continue to pursue policies to eradicate the poverty of the most vulnerable and marginalized populations (Bangladesh);**
- 100.60 **Continue efforts to guarantee the rights of and economic opportunities for women, young people and vulnerable groups, including within the framework of national policy documents, including the opportunity creation plan, 2021–2025, and the national plan for the prevention and eradication of violence against women, 2019–2025 (Belarus);**
- 100.61 **Advance economic, social and cultural rights, in particular for those disproportionately affected by poverty, including Indigenous Peoples, those living in remote communities, women, children and persons with disabilities (Australia);**
- 100.62 **Sustain initiatives on poverty reduction, social inclusion and the protection of groups in vulnerable situations, especially children and adolescents, migrants and persons with disabilities (Philippines);**

- 100.63 **Intensify measures to address the issue of childhood malnutrition and access to health services in rural areas (Türkiye);**
- 100.64 **Take all measures to fight against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and guarantee effective access to voluntary interruption of pregnancy in case of rape (France);**
- 100.65 **Develop regulatory frameworks and relevant policies to address maternal mortality and complications during pregnancy (Maldives);**
- 100.66 **Ensure that austerity measures do not inhibit the availability of necessary resources to maintain levels of access to health services and take steps to remedy inequalities in health indicators for people of African descent (Bahamas);**
- 100.67 **Continue taking measures to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and develop programmes to ensure their enjoyment of their rights to education and health (Algeria);**
- 100.68 **Increase the scope and strengthen State programmes for education and prevention in comprehensive sexual health, taking into account the alarming rates of sexual violence and unwanted pregnancy, and pregnancy resulting from rape, especially in areas with limited access to health and justice services (Netherlands);**
- 100.69 **Continue increasing awareness-raising programmes regarding sexual and reproductive health rights and the different forms of contraception (Mauritius); Intensify inclusive awareness-raising programmes to ensure that all women and girls have access to sexual and reproductive health care, including modern forms of contraceptives (Estonia); Ensure access to comprehensive, quality and affordable sexual and reproductive health services and counselling, without discrimination, including modern methods of contraception, with special attention given to young women in vulnerable situations (Portugal);**
- 100.70 **Reduce child and adolescent pregnancy rates and provide sexual and reproductive health services, as well as sexuality education, for girls, teenagers and women (Canada);**
- 100.71 **Continue its efforts to ensure universal access to quality education (State of Palestine); Ensure that all children have access to quality education without discrimination (Qatar); Continue its efforts to ensure universal access to education at all levels, including pre-primary, primary, secondary and tertiary, avoiding dropout at all levels (Tunisia); Intensify efforts to ensure universal and equal access to quality education, including by strengthening policies to prevent students from dropping out, especially in rural areas (Lebanon);**
- 100.72 **Adopt strategies to address disparities in access to education, health services and a minimum standard of living for Indigenous Peoples (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 100.73 **Increase social spending on education, to ensure universal and equal access to quality education (Viet Nam);**
- 100.74 **Continue promoting access to quality education in rural areas, which would bring long-term benefits to women and youth in rural areas (Algeria);**
- 100.75 **Continue efforts to enhance education in rural areas (South Africa);**
- 100.76 **Increase investment in education and promote the construction of education facilities in rural areas (China);**
- 100.77 **Intensify efforts to improve the quality of education for all, without discrimination, especially in rural areas for Indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian peoples (Djibouti);**
- 100.78 **Guarantee universal and equal access to quality education, including an increase in social spending for this purpose, and strengthen policies to prevent**

school dropout, mainly among girls, boys and adolescents who face situations of vulnerability (Mexico);

100.79 Continue strengthening public policies aimed at reducing the gaps in education between rural and urban areas and at reducing school dropout rates among the low-income population, Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendant and Montubio peoples (Peru);

100.80 Strengthen policies to reduce school dropout rates, including through the development of targeted strategies to allow adolescent mothers to return to secondary school (Bahamas);

100.81 Increase efforts to promote the right to education for persons with disabilities (Malaysia);

100.82 Advance policies to promote sustainable resource use, climate change mitigation and ecosystem conservation (Barbados);

100.83 Adopt a coordinated and differentiated approach to tackling climate change in order to reduce the vulnerability of people, ecosystems and productive systems, increase the ambition of the targets established in the national climate change policy and prioritize investments with a view to decarbonizing the national economy by 2050 (Panama);

100.84 Accelerate the reduction of fossil fuel use and production and enact legislation to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in line with the 1.5°C target in the Paris Agreement (Costa Rica);

100.85 Put into place effective mechanisms to fully repair the damage caused by oil spills and to manage the activity of private companies, by establishing mechanisms to investigate, prosecute and sanction companies in the event of the abuse of human rights (Luxembourg);

100.86 Continue taking steps to develop a national action plan on business and human rights in line with the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Malaysia);

100.87 Provide the National Council for Gender Equality with sufficient resources to execute its mandate efficiently and strengthen the Council's authority, mandate, coordination and monitoring role (Ireland); Strengthen the National Council for Gender Equality and provide it with adequate resources to effectively fulfil its mandate, in order to promote the rights of women and their empowerment (Peru);

100.88 Continue to make progress in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in employment policies and to support women entrepreneurs by promoting inclusive investment and financing and facilitating their access to credit and technology, especially in non-traditional sectors (Colombia);

100.89 Continue comprehensive efforts related to women's rights with a focus on rural areas (Türkiye);

100.90 Conduct awareness-raising campaigns to empower women's access to political representation and decision-making in the world of work (Estonia);

100.91 Encourage the participation of women at all levels of decision-making, including in the judicial and legislative branches of Government, as well as the civil service (Kazakhstan);

100.92 Adopt and implement legislative measures and policies for fostering culture of gender equality, guaranteeing the reduction of violence against women and girls, the end of the femicide phenomenon, women's access to political representation and decision-making and their empowerment through education and labour opportunity programmes (Romania);

100.93 Continue efforts to reduce violence based on gender (Viet Nam);

- 100.94 Continue efforts to combat sexual and gender-based violence (Nepal); Continue to strengthen measures to reduce violence against women (Mauritius);
- 100.95 Strengthen measures to combat all forms of gender-based violence, especially against women and children (Gambia);
- 100.96 Continue to ensure equality for women in law and in practice and combat all forms of gender-based violence (Malaysia);
- 100.97 Continue to address gender-based violence against women and implement protocols on the provision of care for the prevention of violence against women (Barbados);
- 100.98 Adopt and implement intercultural policies to prevent and address the specific challenges of violence against Indigenous women and girls (Montenegro);
- 100.99 Step up the implementation of administrative and judicial measures to ensure the effective protection of women and girls against violence and sexual exploitation, as well as the punishment of perpetrators (Uruguay);
- 100.100 Continue the enhanced implementation of policies and programmes for the prevention and eradication of gender-based violence and the concurrent efforts to promote the empowerment of women and girls, including the opportunity creation plan, 2021–2025 (Philippines);
- 100.101 Continue implementing the inter-institutional attention and coordination protocols, as well as the Comprehensive National System for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence, ensuring an appropriate budget for it, in addition to reinforcing the campaigns for the prevention of violence against women, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Paraguay);
- 100.102 Support the empowerment of organizations of women, girls and adolescents, by strengthening their capacities for leadership, advocacy and social mobilization for claiming their rights and eradicating gender-based violence (Panama);
- 100.103 Ensure the availability of shelters for victims of sexual and gender-based violence, in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Iceland);
- 100.104 Continue efforts to adopt specific legislation providing comprehensive and multidimensional reparations for children and other relatives of victims of femicide (Greece);
- 100.105 Continue to work towards the effective implementation of its legal framework for strengthening the measures to combat all forms of gender-based violence against women (Georgia); Strengthen the implementation of the existing legal framework regarding gender-based violence (Estonia);
- 100.106 Strengthen mechanisms to prevent and combat violence against women, in order to protect victims, and provide them with justice and rehabilitation and all other forms of assistance (Djibouti);
- 100.107 Adopt programmes to prevent gender-based violence against women politicians and candidates in public discourse, provide capacity-building on political campaigning and leadership skills, as well as ensure access to adequate campaign financing for women candidates (Denmark);
- 100.108 Allocate the necessary resources and personnel to implement the Integral Organic Law for the Prevention and Eradication of Gender-based Violence against Women (Costa Rica); Allocate the necessary resources for the effective implementation of the Integral Organic Law for the Prevention and Eradication of Gender-based Violence against Women (Brazil); Strengthen measures aimed at combating all forms of gender-based violence, in particular by allocating the necessary resources for the effective implementation of the



comprehensive organic law aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women (Belgium);

100.109 Establish and strengthen mechanisms and legislation to ensure the prosecution of acts of violence against women and girls, as well as femicides, and establish a public policy providing for comprehensive reparations for victims and survivors of violence against women and girls (Switzerland);

100.110 Intensify campaigns throughout the country to raise public awareness of the consequences of all forms of violence, especially domestic violence against women and children, and strengthen measures for protection and mechanisms for victims to address implementation gaps (Armenia);

100.111 Take concrete steps to bring to justice perpetrators of violence against women and girls, particularly femicides, including by making available the necessary resources for investigations and prosecutions (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

100.112 Strengthen the investigation of attacks against women to combat impunity for this type of crime and improve the training of judges, prosecutors and officials responsible for enforcing the law on women's equality, as well as promote coordinated actions to prevent violence against women and girls (Spain);

100.113 Strengthen efforts to eliminate violence and discrimination against women, including by raising awareness and increasing education on equality of women and girls (Indonesia);

100.114 Proceed with the work towards the adoption of a draft organic code for the thorough protection of the rights of children (Georgia);

100.115 Step up efforts in terms of adopting the necessary policy measures to implement the rights of the child, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (India);

100.116 Strengthen further the human rights institutions for ensuring better protection of the rights of children, women and Indigenous People (Kazakhstan); Further reinforce mechanisms guaranteeing better protection of the rights of children, women and Indigenous Peoples (Pakistan);

100.117 Strengthen protection given to children against the threat of online sexual abuse and exploitation including by joining the WeProtect Global Alliance and establishing and implementing a national action plan (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

100.118 Continue its efforts in eliminating sexual violence, with a particular focus on sexual violence against children, as well as ensuring victims' protection while pursuing the complaints (Ukraine);

100.119 Adopt an action plan to guarantee the full birth registration of children residing in rural, coastal and border areas, in order to contribute to the enjoyment of the right to identity (Argentina); Allocate appropriate resources to ensure universal birth registration and promote the rights of children and adolescents in rural areas (Barbados); Adopt an action plan to guarantee birth registration for all girls and boys, with special attention given to those who live in rural, coastal and border areas (Mexico);

100.120 Establish, in relation with violence against children and juveniles, "support stations" and shelters for young survivors of abuse, staffed by trained personnel enjoying the survivors' trust (Germany);

100.121 Step up efforts to promote gender equality and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, including harmful practices, like child, early and forced marriage (Italy);

- 100.122 Pursue efforts undertaken in fighting child marriage, especially in rural areas (Lebanon);
- 100.123 Intensify the efforts to eliminate child labour by strengthening partnerships with the private sector ((Islamic Republic of Iran));
- 100.124 Intensify efforts to eliminate child labour (Montenegro);
- 100.125 Redouble efforts to eliminate child labour and establish programmes to implement the national strategy against child labour (State of Palestine);
- 100.126 Involve persons with disabilities in the implementation of the national plan for persons with disabilities for the period 2021–2025 (Qatar);
- 100.127 Take further measures to ensure equality for persons with disabilities, including within the framework of the national agenda for 2021–2025 and through the comprehensive social protection system operating in the country (Belarus);
- 100.128 Redouble efforts in order to strengthen mechanisms to detect and prevent situations of violence against persons with disabilities (Paraguay);
- 100.129 Adopt additional measures to guarantee the economic, social and cultural rights of Indigenous communities, especially in rural areas (Spain);
- 100.130 Make all reasonable adjustments to ensure better quality of life for Indigenous Peoples and to further recognize their traditions (Chile);
- 100.131 Ensure the right to free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples on policies, projects and legislation that may affect them (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 100.132 Guarantee the right to consultation and free, prior and informed consent for Indigenous Peoples, as a means of effective participation in any matter that could affect their rights (Namibia); Establish an effective consultation process with the Indigenous Peoples and communities concerned for any project that might affect their territory or livelihoods (Estonia); Ensure the right to free, prior and informed consent for Indigenous Peoples on policies, projects and legislation that may affect them (Slovenia); Ensure the right to free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples on policies, projects and legislation that may affect them, in line with human rights standards (South Africa); Ensure the right of Indigenous Peoples to participate in the decision-making process on matters that affect them through free, prior and informed consultation, in accordance with article 57 of the Constitution (Canada);
- 100.133 Strengthen effective and targeted implementation of lawful action to protect Indigenous People against all forms of discrimination and violence and take extra steps to preserve Indigenous languages (Armenia);
- 100.134 Adopt effective measures to guarantee the rights of Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation over their lands, territories and natural resources and with regard to their culture and ways of life (Honduras);
- 100.135 Strengthen public policy measures aimed at combating all de facto discrimination against groups in situations of vulnerability, in particular women, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant and Montuvian peoples, the rural population, people in situations of human mobility and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex persons (Argentina);
- 100.136 Take measures to prevent and prohibit practices considered as “de-homosexualization” or “reorientation” treatment against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex persons (Belgium);
- 100.137 Maintain efforts to promote and protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people, especially to safeguard the physical integrity of intersex children (Chile);

100.138 **Ensure access to justice for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex people, including by prosecuting alleged perpetrators of hate crimes (Iceland);**

100.139 **Guarantee access to justice and reduce impunity in cases of physical and sexual violence and murders against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex communities, especially the transgender population (Netherlands);**

100.140 **Establish and implement a set of policies to protect victims of discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity and expression, including the implementation of the June 2019 Constitutional Court ruling, and review the legal provisions on civil marriage to take into account same-sex couples (Luxembourg);**

100.141 **Remove barriers to gender self-identification for transgender and intersex persons by developing and implementing a comprehensive identity law (Iceland);**

100.142 **Continue working to eradicate all forms of violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and, in this regard, move forward towards the adoption of a diversity action plan (Cuba);**

100.143 **Step up national efforts to assess the particular protection needs of persons in a situation of mobility (Uruguay);**

100.144 **Implement a migrant regularization policy which is in line with the needs of vulnerable people on the move to prevent returns and expulsions without a procedure to determine whether there is a need for international protection (Luxembourg).**

101. **The following recommendations will be examined by Ecuador, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the fifty-second session of the Human Rights Council:**

101.1 **Adopt concrete measures to reduce the number of violent deaths in prisons and detention facilities, namely, by reducing the number of persons in detention by using alternatives to incarceration (Portugal);**

101.2 **Take the relevant and necessary measures to reduce prison overcrowding, including through the implementation of alternative sentences (Indonesia);**

101.3 **Protect and guarantee the rights of persons deprived of their liberty, in particular by granting alternative measures to the imprisonment of vulnerable persons, as long as this measure does not endanger the rights of another person (Belgium);**

101.4 **Take immediate and additional steps to improve prison conditions, with particular attention given to measures that address overcrowding, violence and inadequate health services (Australia);**

101.5 **Combat impunity related to the violence committed by members of the security forces (France);**

101.6 **Create a safe and enabling environment for civil society, in law and in practice, including by amending relevant laws to ensure compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Egypt);**

101.7 **Develop public broadcasting media protocols and measures to guarantee pluralism in coverage, as well as to guarantee the independence of journalists and analysts from government influence (Timor-Leste);**

101.8 **Protect press freedom by preventing libel and defamation suits aimed at silencing public criticism and protect freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly and association by reviewing articles 182, 336, 339, 345, 346**

and 365 of the Penal Code to ensure that criminal definitions are formulated in an explicit, precise, detailed and prior manner (Canada);

101.9 **Revise legal provisions on civil marriage to include same-sex couples and regulate assisted reproductive methods (Iceland);**

101.10 **Promote universal access to social security by allocating the necessary technical and financial resources for the effective implementation of the opportunity creation plan (Maldives);**

101.11 **Strengthen the efforts promoting an adequate standard of living, such as the development of a solidarity-based economic system (Azerbaijan);**

101.12 **Take the necessary measures to resolve violence related to land conflicts, including the illegal use of land (France);**

101.13 **Decriminalize abortion and ensure the right to universal and safe access to sexual and reproductive health services (Iceland);**

101.14 **Legalize abortion in cases of rape, incest, threat to the life or health of the pregnant woman or serious malformation of the fetus and decriminalize it in all cases (Mexico);**

101.15 **Ensure timely and effective access to safe and legal abortion services for all pregnant people who need them (South Africa);**

101.16 **Adopt age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education and ensure that it is a mandatory subject that is accessible to all students (South Africa);**

101.17 **Adopt an age-appropriate comprehensive sexual education policy, in line with scientific evidence and human rights, and ensure that it is a compulsory subject accessible to all students from primary school onwards (Costa Rica);**

101.18 **Reduce the impact of the austerity measures and the Extended Fund Facility of the International Monetary Fund on the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights in the country (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

101.19 **End violence against women and girls and the increase in the domestic violence rate, which is among the highest in the region (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

101.20 **Expand, in relation with violence against women, specialized law enforcement departments for addressing gender-based violence in police and public prosecution departments (Germany);**

101.21 **Adopt a comprehensive national policy and strategy aimed at implementing the rights of the child in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and establishing a high-level interministerial body to coordinate all policies and programmes relating to the implementation of the Convention (Timor-Leste);**

101.22 **Guarantee the right to free, prior and informed consultation of Indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian peoples (Mexico);**

101.23 **Amend article 68 of the Constitution to enable same-sex couples to adopt (Iceland).**

102. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Ecuador and have been noted by Ecuador:**

102.1 **End systemic prison violence and police brutality and adopt effective initiatives to address the abusive use of preventive detention and the serious prison overcrowding situation (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

102.2 **Put an end to the lack of independence of the judiciary and the use of justice to persecute and imprison anti-government political leaders (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

102.3 **Put an end to the growing hostility against, and excessive criminalization of, social activists, journalists and human rights defenders and punish the continuous attacks against journalists for fulfilling their duty to inform (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

102.4 **Put an end to the abusive use of force against protesters in general, and Indigenous People in particular, and put an end to the impunity for those responsible, especially those responsible of the bloody repression in 2019, which is still unpunished (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

102.5 **Put an end to the rates of chronic malnutrition and childhood malnutrition, that have increased considerably, and to the extreme poverty of the Indigenous population (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

102.6 **Put an end to the high number of cases of labour and sexual exploitation, especially of children, and implement without delay a comprehensive care programme for victims (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

102.7 **End exacerbated discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and protect and compensate victims (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela).**

103. **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.**

### **III. Voluntary pledges and commitments**

104. Ecuador assumed the following voluntary commitments:

(a) Through cooperation with the United Nations system, to institutionalize the national reporting and follow-up mechanism to ensure compliance with the approved recommendations and human rights commitments assumed within the framework of the United Nations system;

(b) To undertake all actions for the creation of the first Ministry of Women and Human Rights to strengthen the respect and promotion of human rights of the Ecuadorian population, as well as to generate the actions necessary to prevent and eradicate discrimination and violence against women and girls;

(c) To continue sharing with the international community the country's experiences on the protection and promotion of human rights of persons in situations of human mobility.

## Annex

### Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Ecuador was headed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, Juan Carlos Holguín, and composed of the following members:

- Sr. Juan Carlos Holguín, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana;
  - Sr. Francisco Jiménez, Ministro de Gobierno;
  - Sra. María Brown, Ministra de Educación;
  - Sra. Paola Flores, Secretaria de Derechos Humanos;
  - Sra. Gretty Vargas, Secretaria de Gestión y Desarrollo de Pueblos y Nacionalidades;
  - Sr. Emilio Izquierdo, Embajador, Representante Permanente del Ecuador ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas y otros Organismos Internacionales con sede en Ginebra;
  - Sra. Elizabeth Zhunio, Subsecretaria de Derechos Humanos, Secretaría de Derechos Humanos;
  - Sr. Alejandro Dávalos, Ministro, Representante Permanente Alterno del Ecuador ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas y otros Organismos Internacionales con sede en Ginebra;
  - Sr. Guido Vallejo, Asesor 2, Secretaría de Gestión y Desarrollo de Pueblos y Nacionalidades;
  - Sra. Marcia Rochina, Segunda Secretaria, Misión Permanente del Ecuador ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas otros Organismos Internacionales con sede en Ginebra;
  - Sr. Víctor Calderón, Attaché, Misión Permanente del Ecuador ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas y otros Organismos Internacionales con sede en Ginebra;
  - Sra. Verónica Oquendo, Especialista, Dirección de Derechos Humanos y Paz, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana.
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