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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Gabon

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



Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its forty-second session from 23 January to 3 February 2023. The review of Gabon was held at the 3rd meeting, on 24 January 2023. The delegation of Gabon was headed by the Minister of Justice, in charge of human rights and gender equality, Erlyne Antonella Ndembet Damas. At its 10th meeting, held on 27 January 2023, the Working Group adopted the report on Gabon.
2. On 11 January 2023, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Gabon: Costa Rica, Morocco and Viet Nam.
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 Gabon:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);¹
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);²
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).³
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Gabon through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Gabon underscored the fact that the country is a party to eight of the nine international human rights instruments. Gabon had issued a standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders and had submitted a report to the Committee on Enforced Disappearances in February 2022. It had also approved three other reports to be submitted to treaty bodies and had sponsored Human Rights Council resolution 47/4 on menstrual hygiene management, human rights and gender equality, which had been adopted on 12 July 2021.
6. Civil society had been consulted on the national reports submitted to the treaty bodies and to the universal periodic review. In 2020, the National Mechanism for Dialogue and Exchange had been established to bring together representatives of the Government, the National Human Rights Commission and civil society organizations.
7. Approximately 70 per cent of the recommendations relating to political dialogue between the ruling majority and the opposition had been implemented. Other noteworthy achievements included: (a) the adoption of texts aimed at strengthening the transparency and credibility of electoral processes; (b) the establishment of a two-round majority voting system for presidential and parliamentary elections; and (c) the creation of the Gabonese Electoral Centre, which was responsible for organizing all electoral processes.
8. The National Human Rights Commission had been reformed to strengthen its compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), including through the establishment of a national preventive mechanism. The bill on the National Human Rights Commission had

¹ [A/HRC/WG.6/42/GAB/1](#).

² [A/HRC/WG.6/42/GAB/2](#).

³ [A/HRC/WG.6/42/GAB/3](#).

been adopted by the Senate in October 2022 and was being considered by the National Assembly.

9. Freedom of expression, association and assembly was guaranteed by the Constitution, enshrined in laws and regulations and upheld by the Government.

10. In Gabon, there were 350 associations working to uphold human rights, and a large number of citizen movements engaged in community action. Public meetings and demonstrations were permitted and could be restricted or prohibited only if they were organized unlawfully or were likely to disrupt public order.

11. The protection of human rights defenders was a priority issue for the Government, which had begun discussions with civil society to establish a formal framework for consultations between the Government and human rights organizations.

12. With regard to places of deprivation of liberty, Gabon had undertaken to implement two public policies, one on the management of detention and sentences and one on integration and reintegration for former prisoners. Alternative sentences to imprisonment had been introduced in the Criminal Code. Gabon had committed to undertaking, over the period 2019–2024, a wide-ranging renovation and construction programme at places of detention to improve prisoners' living conditions and was seeking to strengthen its reintegration policies.

13. In the area of economic, social and cultural rights, Gabon had adopted a three-year plan to accelerate the transformation of the national economy, with a budget of 3,000 billion CFA francs, integrated programmes for drinking water and sanitation in Greater Libreville, a project for access to basic services in rural areas and a national health development plan.

14. Gabon had implemented a comprehensive strategy to improve medical care. The strategy had led to the development of mobile health-care services, mobile units providing vaccination against coronavirus disease (COVID-19) to reach as many people as possible, free childbirth services, the expansion of the work of the emergency social services, the strengthening of the plan for combating HIV/AIDS and enhanced efforts to combat female cancers.

15. In the area of education, a development plan had been put in place to improve the quality of teaching, access to education and the school environment. The plan addressed issues such as inclusive education, girls' retention and empowerment and vocational training for young persons.

16. In order to uphold women's rights and better protect them, the Gabon Equality Strategy had been adopted in 2020 as a national strategy to promote women's rights and reduce inequalities between women and men. The Strategy, which had been developed in accordance with international treaties and the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, was intended to be a cross-cutting public policy aimed at promoting women's rights and protecting them from all forms of violence and discrimination.

17. In the area of children's rights, Gabon had adopted Act No. 003/2018 of 8 February 2019 on the Children's Code. To curb the phenomenon of statelessness, Gabon, with support from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), had conducted nationwide operations to identify children without birth certificates. As a result, 15,000 children had been issued with birth certificates and then registered with the National Health Insurance and Social Protection Fund.

18. The Government had protected the rights of Indigenous Peoples by ensuring that they were fully reflected in the strategies and programmes developed and implemented by the authorities, including the 2021 birth certificate campaign, as a result of which 5,826 Indigenous children and parents had obtained birth certificates. In the political arena, two Indigenous parliamentarians had been elected in 2018.

19. Persons with disabilities had benefited from the introduction, in 2019, of a scholarship for pupils and students living with disabilities. On 9 July 2022, the first independent trade union for professionals with disabilities and related categories had begun its activities.

20. Under Gabonese law, refugees were guaranteed a number of basic rights. In 2020, 214 refugee children had been enrolled in school, including 115 in public schools, and 189 had

been granted a residence permit. The introduction of biometric passports for refugees by the Economic Community of Central African States in 2020 had confirmed the commitment of Gabon to comply with its international human rights obligations and commitments.

21. With regard to the recommendations that Gabon had noted, including the one related to the post-election crisis, the delegation said that following the report prepared by the International Criminal Court in 2018, an investigation had been conducted by the National Human Rights Commission in 2020. Civil society organizations representing the victims had subsequently been invited to file complaints with the Public Prosecutor's Office. No such complaints had yet been registered.

22. The delegation reaffirmed the Government's determination to meet its international commitments and to improve the implementation of the international legal instruments on human rights to which Gabon is a party.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

23. During the interactive dialogue, 101 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

24. Rwanda congratulated Gabon on creating the inclusive National Committee for the Drafting of Human Rights Reports.

25. Saudi Arabia welcomed the efforts made to protect women from violence, promote equality and protect the rights of children.

26. Senegal commended Gabon on its efforts to strengthen the legislative and institutional framework for human rights, to access economic and social rights and to protect vulnerable groups.

27. Serbia welcomed the establishment of the National Council for the Prevention of Child Trafficking in Gabon and encouraged efforts towards inclusive education.

28. Sierra Leone commended the Strategy to Promote Women's Rights and Reduce Gender Inequality, and amendments to the Criminal Code on violence and discrimination against women.

29. Singapore welcomed the implementation of the mobile medicine strategy to provide general medical care and the development of an action plan on the rights of persons with disabilities.

30. Slovenia commended Gabon on its leadership in environmental conservation and its support in the Human Rights Council for recognition of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

31. Somalia appreciated the progress made in upholding the rights of women and children, including the creation of toll-free numbers for victims of violence against women and of child abuse, and the support extended to refugees by granting them nationality.

32. Spain praised the progress made in terms of family law and the Criminal Code amendments aimed at achieving more effective gender equality.

33. Sri Lanka welcomed the introduction of a toll-free number for children to combat various forms of violence against them and a free counselling and guidance contact number for women who were victims of violence.

34. The State of Palestine welcomed the efforts made by Gabon to promote and protect human rights in the country.

35. The Sudan commended the progress made in protecting human rights, including legal and institutional reform and the introduction of the Strategy to Promote Women's Rights and Reduce Gender Inequality.

36. Togo commended the adoption of legal provisions to promote women's equal access to work and to punish sexual and psychological harassment.

37. Türkiye welcomed the strong resolve of Gabon to put an end to unequal employment opportunities and treatment for men and women.
38. Ukraine welcomed the commitment of Gabon to gender equality and to improving the status of women, particularly as Ukraine was a newly elected member of the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.
39. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the positive steps Gabon had taken, including decriminalizing homosexuality, affirming women's equal access to work and passing legislation on violence against women.
40. The United States of America commended Gabon for decriminalizing same-sex relations between consenting adults and for its efforts to advance gender equality. Nevertheless, it remained concerned by restrictions on freedom of expression.
41. Uruguay commended Gabon on its efforts to uphold human rights, including by amending the law on the National Commission on Human Rights.
42. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela appreciated the affirmative action taken on women's access to electoral mandates and rent waivers for persons without an income during the COVID-19 state of emergency.
43. Viet Nam recognized the efforts made to strengthen national human rights bodies, protect the rights of vulnerable groups and align national legislation with international instruments.
44. Yemen appreciated the reforms introduced to improve women's political participation, evaluate public policies and organize judicial bodies.
45. Zambia commended the commitment of Gabon to improving human rights in the country, including detention conditions.
46. Algeria welcomed the fight against poverty and trafficking in persons, as well as improved access to health care and education.
47. Angola commended the commitment of Gabon to environmental preservation and its efforts to accelerate the transition towards a green economy.
48. Argentina congratulated Gabon for submitting its report to the Committee on Enforced Disappearances.
49. Armenia commended Gabon on its progress in implementing the recommendations from the third review cycle.
50. Australia expressed concern about reports of poor prison and detention conditions and encouraged Gabon to reduce the length of pretrial detention.
51. Azerbaijan noted that wide-ranging reform in the institutional and legislative sphere would contribute to improving human rights in practice.
52. The Bahamas commended the implementation of the Strategy to Promote Women's Rights and Reduce Gender Inequality (Gabon Égalité).
53. Bahrain commended Gabon on its efforts to protect women's rights, fight trafficking in persons and ensure access to health for all.
54. Bangladesh welcomed the National Health Development Plan, which had served as a transformative agenda for ensuring equal access to health care for all.
55. Belgium welcomed efforts on gender equality and the decriminalization of same-sex relations, while noting persistent challenges in Gabon.
56. Botswana commended Gabon for the progress made in ensuring access to education, while expressing concern about the drop-out rate of primary school graduates.
57. In response to questions from States, the delegation underscored that in 2007, Gabon had set up a national mechanism for the drafting of reports which was answerable to the Minister for Human Rights. Its mandate was to collect and analyse data and information and prepare reports for regional and international human rights mechanisms. The mechanism was

composed of 22 members representing ministerial departments, parliament, the judiciary, the Economic, Social and Environmental Council, the National Human Rights Commission, the High Authority for Communications, civil society organizations, religious denominations and the Bar Association. The reporting mechanism had faced some challenges, such as changes to its membership and its limited mandate.

58. Freedom of association and freedom of assembly were upheld in Gabon: there were no measures in place to prevent or restrict them. A bill to modernize the legislation on associations was currently before parliament. It was aimed at ensuring better organization of the network of associations by separating religious associations from secular ones. The bill would provide associations with more flexible conditions for their legal establishment and would promote better oversight by the State, including with regard to preventing the financing of terrorism and money-laundering.

59. With regard to public meetings, their unhindered organization was subject to a normative framework that provided sufficient protection for freedom of expression. Political actors and associations organized their public meetings without hindrance. The Ministry of the Interior had given legal approval to 20 new political parties, bringing the total number of legally recognized parties to 100, all of which benefited from a State subsidy appropriate to their operational needs and their participation in democratic life.

60. Gabon received significant support from national and international partners in training law enforcement, security and defence officials in the application of respect for human rights in law enforcement and border control activities.

61. According to Gabonese criminal law, it was illegal to detain a person beyond the legal time limits set out in article 130 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Pursuant to that article, the maximum duration of pretrial detention was 18 months for ordinary offences and 24 months for serious offences. Article 136 of the Code specified that once that period expired, the detainee was automatically released by order of the Prosecutor General or the Attorney General.

62. With respect to forced marriage, the Civil Code had been revised and the age at which women could marry had been set at 18 years. Forced marriage did not regularly occur in Gabon because women could not marry before the age of 18 years. To speak of ritual crimes was insulting: there was no ritual in Gabon that involved the removal of organs after a person's death. Anyone convicted of such an offence risked life imprisonment.

63. Brazil welcomed the amendments to the Criminal Code decriminalizing homosexuality and the measures to improve detention conditions and introduce alternatives to imprisonment.

64. Brunei Darussalam noted the establishment in 2021 of the National Education Development Plan, with measures to strengthen education governance and improve the quality of teaching.

65. Burkina Faso noted the adoption of the law on the Children's Code in Gabon.

66. Burundi commended action taken in the areas of justice, education, health, family law, politics, the economy and in the fight against gender inequalities.

67. Cabo Verde commended legislative progress on women's rights, efforts to improve access to social protection and progress in birth registration.

68. Cameroon congratulated Gabon for the excellent quality of its national report for the fourth review cycle.

69. The Kingdom of the Netherlands, concerned about reports of mistreatment and torture of prisoners, urged Gabon to take additional measures to prevent torture as part of the ongoing criminal justice reforms.

70. Chad welcomed Act No. 006/2020 of 6 September 2021 on the elimination of violence against women and the ratification by Gabon of international conventions.

71. Chile welcomed the implementation of the Strategy to Promote Women's Rights and Reduce Gender Inequality and the decriminalization of same-sex consensual sexual relations.

72. China welcomed the efforts of Gabon to ensure access to education and health care, crack down on trafficking in persons and violence against women, and increase the quality of life of its population.
73. Colombia welcomed the promotion of women's rights, the reduction of gender inequality and the decriminalization of same-sex consensual sexual relationships.
74. The Congo welcomed the establishment of an appropriate mechanism to punish killings committed for commercial or ceremonial purposes and the cooperation of Gabon with international human rights mechanisms.
75. Costa Rica welcomed the commitment of Gabon to reporting to treaty bodies and its close cooperation with the United Nations.
76. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the constitutional reforms adopted to strengthen the legislative and institutional frameworks of Gabon.
77. Croatia welcomed the measures taken to strengthen legal equality for married women and to affirm women's equal access to work, while noting the absence of a specific legal framework on the rights of women.
78. Cuba noted that the decriminalization of same-sex consensual sexual relations was testimony of the Government's resolve to protect the rights of its people.
79. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea commended the strengthening of the legislative and institutional human rights framework, despite the challenges Gabon faced.
80. Denmark applauded the legislative progress on sexual and gender-based violence, while remaining concerned about reports of shrinking civic space affecting women's and girls' rights.
81. Djibouti commended measures taken in the Criminal and Civil Codes, the law on the punishment of violence against women and the Strategy to Promote Women's Rights and Reduce Gender Inequality.
82. The Dominican Republic welcomed the creation of the National Council for the Prevention of Child Trafficking in Gabon.
83. Egypt appreciated the efforts being made to protect human rights, specifically reforms aimed at developing the legislative and institutional framework.
84. Estonia welcomed the recent decriminalization of consensual same-sex relations between adults and reforms to advance women's rights and gender equality.
85. Ethiopia commended Gabon for the bill on the reorganization of the National Commission on Human Rights.
86. Finland applauded the steps taken to protect women against all forms of violence and discrimination, including the opening of a centre for women victims of violence.
87. France welcomed the measures taken since the previous review, including the decriminalization of same-sex relations and action to combat violence against women and girls.
88. The Gambia applauded the Strategy to Promote Women's Rights and Reduce Gender Inequality.
89. Georgia welcomed the adoption in 2021 of the revised Labour Code, affirming women's equal access to work, and efforts to increase women's access to social protection.
90. Germany welcomed legal reforms on women's rights, while remaining concerned about the delays in establishing the National Commission on Human Rights.
91. Ghana welcomed the constitutional reforms, the adoption of new laws and regulations and the reform of several institutions.
92. Greece highlighted the pioneering role of Gabon in promoting biodiversity, conserving tropical forests and protecting the marine environment.
93. Iceland welcomed the delegation of Gabon and its national report.

94. India welcomed the ratification by Gabon of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and commended its efforts to address the issue of irregular migration in the context of trafficking in persons.
95. Indonesia welcomed the enactment by Gabon of a number of laws and regulations designed to promote and protect human rights.
96. Responding to questions from States, the delegation of Gabon indicated that, with regard to the rights of LGBT+ persons, Gabon valued its long-standing culture of tolerance and would not encourage any discrimination based on sexual orientation. In 2020, homosexuality had been decriminalized after an attempt to criminalize it that had lasted only one year and had had no legal consequences. So far, no complaints of discrimination against LGBT+ persons had been registered by the national courts.
97. The issue of menstrual insecurity was a public health issue affecting women and girls, and some actions were already being taken. A mobile awareness-raising unit had been jointly set up by the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and the Ministry of National Education and had distributed 10,500 packets of sanitary protection in schools in Libreville to raise awareness among 2,016 students, adolescents and young persons.
98. The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed the efforts of Gabon to implement some of the recommendations it had accepted during the third review cycle and its achievements in that regard.
99. Iraq welcomed the constitutional and institutional reforms on human rights and the legislative and regulatory measures in the field of elections.
100. Ireland commended the reforms promoting women's rights, while remaining concerned at restrictions on freedom of expression, digital surveillance during elections and intimidation and censorship of media workers and journalists.
101. Israel commended the legislative steps taken in 2020 to decriminalize same-sex relations and the efforts to reduce violence against women.
102. Italy welcomed the legislation on women's rights and gender equality and commended Gabon for decriminalizing consensual adult same-sex relations.
103. Kenya noted the constitutional amendments to guarantee access to elected office to women, youth and persons with disabilities and the steps taken to strengthen the National Commission on Human Rights.
104. Latvia welcomed the decriminalization of homosexuality and the criminalization of female genital mutilation, widowhood practices and levirate and sororate marriages.
105. Lebanon commended the progress made in promoting and protecting human rights.
106. Lesotho commended the accession of Gabon to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the national plan to combat trafficking.
107. Liechtenstein made recommendations.
108. Lithuania commended the progress made towards achieving gender equality and combating violence against women.
109. Luxembourg congratulated Gabon on the progress made in the area of human rights, including the decriminalization of homosexuality.
110. Malawi noted the adoption of the Strategy to Promote Women's Rights and Reduce Gender Inequality.
111. Malaysia welcomed the comprehensive efforts to address the rights of women and to support gender equality, and efforts to empower girls by ensuring access to education.
112. Maldives welcomed the Strategy to Promote Women's Rights and Reduce Gender Inequality, which strengthened the regulatory framework to ensure gender equality and combat violence against women.

113. Mali commended the legislative measures aimed at improving the protection of human rights in general and the rights of the child in particular.
114. Mauritania welcomed the strengthening of the legislative and institutional frameworks governing the various political, economic and social fields.
115. Mauritius welcomed the resolution on menstrual hygiene management, human rights and gender equality, adopted in July 2021 by the Human Rights Council, which Gabon had sponsored.
116. Mexico commended the decriminalization of homosexuality and the adoption of concrete measures for the protection of women's rights.
117. Montenegro commended the amendments to the Criminal Code decriminalizing homosexuality and criminalizing female genital mutilation and other harmful practices.
118. Morocco noted the ratification by Gabon of several international conventions, reinforcing its commitment to protecting human rights, and its constructive engagement with human rights mechanisms.
119. Namibia commended legislative measures to eliminate violence against women and ensure equality between men and women.
120. Nepal welcomed the establishment of a food bank and the COVID-19 Solidarity Fund in response to the pandemic and efforts to protect women's rights.
121. Canada commended the changes made to the Criminal Code to decriminalize same-sex sexual activity between consenting adults and measures taken to reduce violence against women.
122. The Niger welcomed the establishment of a three-year plan to stimulate and transform the Gabonese economy and the strengthening of the National Commission on Human Rights.
123. Nigeria welcomed the establishment of an effective birth registration system, which could provide vital proof of age and protect children against child, early and forced marriage.
124. Pakistan acknowledged the enactment of Organic Acts No. 007/2019 and No. 008/2019, aimed at further strengthening the judicial system, as well as Act No. 006/2021 on the elimination of violence against women.
125. Panama expressed appreciation for the presentation of the national report of Gabon.
126. Paraguay expressed appreciation for the reforms aimed at giving women equal access to electoral mandates and political and professional responsibilities.
127. Poland commended the constitutional reforms to secure equal access for women and men, including persons with disabilities, to elected office and positions of responsibility.
128. Portugal appreciated the amendment of the Criminal Code to decriminalize same-sex relations and efforts made to improve women's rights and gender equality.
129. Romania welcomed the cooperation of Gabon with the international human rights mechanisms and its efforts to improve the situation of women and girls through legislative and administrative measures.
130. The Russian Federation appreciated the progress made in strengthening national capacity to protect human rights and the efforts of Gabon to promote interreligious tolerance and interfaith harmony.
131. South Africa commended Gabon on its constitutional reforms introducing positive discrimination in favour of women to secure equal access to elected office for women and men.
132. Madagascar noted the adoption of a law on the elimination of violence against women and the establishment of a national observatory for women's rights.
133. In its concluding remarks, the delegation stressed that in the area of gender equality and the protection of the rights of women and vulnerable persons, important regulatory and institutional advances had been made. The modification of the legal arsenal had allowed for

better support for women in all areas of their lives. Several provisions that discriminated against women in the area of marriage had been removed from the Civil Code, and the penalties set out in the Criminal Code for violence against women had been strengthened.

134. Issues related to the organization of general elections, democracy and electoral transparency had been a matter of constant concern for the Gabonese authorities. In his last speech to the nation in December 2022, President Ali Bongo Ondimba, having heeded the appeals of the opposition parties and civil society, had announced that a consultation would soon be held with political actors from the ruling party and the opposition to discuss and decide together on the measures and mechanisms to be put in place to ensure that democracy would be respected in the next elections and that they would be peaceful and credible.

135. Gabon still faced many challenges and requested technical assistance from its international partners and United Nations mechanisms to implement the recommendations accepted by the Government.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

136.1 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Congo) (Ghana) (Niger);**

136.2 **Envisage the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Senegal);**

136.3 **Consider the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Rwanda);**

136.4 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Sierra Leone);**

136.5 **Move towards ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Chile);**

136.6 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) of the International Labour Organization (Colombia);**

136.7 **Ratify the International Labour Organization's Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Togo);**

136.8 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Paraguay);**

136.9 **Accede to the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Botswana);**

136.10 **Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (France);**

136.11 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Italy);**

136.12 **Accede to the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Liechtenstein);**

- 136.13 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Ukraine);**
- 136.14 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (South Africa);**
- 136.15 **Ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa (Slovenia);**
- 136.16 **Accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Ukraine);**
- 136.17 **Ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Panama);**
- 136.18 **Ratify the amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression (Kampala amendments) (Liechtenstein);**
- 136.19 **Accept all the individual communication procedures in the international conventions and the optional protocols to international conventions ratified by Gabon, including the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);**
- 136.20 **Consider accepting the competence of United Nations treaty bodies to receive and consider individual communications, in particular the Committee against Torture and the Human Rights Committee (Paraguay);**
- 136.21 **Extend its cooperation with international human rights mechanisms, which has contributed to strengthening the institutional framework for human rights in the Gabonese Republic (Dominican Republic);**
- 136.22 **Continue to cooperate with regional and international human rights mechanisms (Egypt);**
- 136.23 **Strengthen cooperation with United Nations agencies, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Cameroon);**
- 136.24 **Consider recognizing the right to education in its Constitution (Portugal);**
- 136.25 **Bring the electoral law into line with article 1, paragraph 24, of the Constitution to guarantee the principle of parity in the list of candidates (Mexico);**
- 136.26 **Ensure that national legislation is in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular by providing free and universal birth registration to all children born in the territory of Gabon (Latvia);**
- 136.27 **Continue efforts aimed at strengthening human rights legislative and institutional frameworks (Sudan);**
- 136.28 **Consider including in its legislation the prohibition of enforced disappearances (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 136.29 **Consider adopting specific and comprehensive legislation to combat all forms of discrimination against women (Zambia);**
- 136.30 **Revise its legislation with a view to eliminating the discrimination based on sex that is present in legislative texts such as the Civil Code, the Criminal Code and the Labour Code (Burkina Faso);**
- 136.31 **Prohibit in its legislation sexual harassment in the workplace and polygamy (Spain);**
- 136.32 **Guarantee the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, including by developing and adopting a law on access to information (Namibia);**

- 136.33 Continue efforts to strengthen national policies and programmes aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (Sudan);
- 136.34 Continue its efforts to fulfil its international obligations by further developing and implementing comprehensive national plans and programmes under the Sustainable Development Goals (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 136.35 Continue implementing the national priorities and initiatives, in particular those related to genuine collaboration with human rights mechanisms at the regional and international levels, as well as the dissemination of human rights principles and values within government institutions and civil society organizations (Somalia);
- 136.36 Enhance efforts made within the framework of implementing the three-year plan to stimulate and transform the Gabonese economy (Mauritania);
- 136.37 Further strengthen the national COVID-19 pandemic response strategy, especially to protect the social and economic rights of vulnerable groups (Pakistan);
- 136.38 Expedite the approval of the bill on the National Human Rights Commission, ensuring that the Commission is provided with sufficient human and financial resources to function correctly and efficiently (Dominican Republic);
- 136.39 Accelerate the process of reorganizing the National Human Rights Commission to make it fully compliant with the Paris Principles and allocate sufficient financial and human resources to it (Djibouti);
- 136.40 Accelerate the adoption of the bill on the National Human Rights Commission and allocate sufficient resources to it in order to comply with the Paris Principles (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 136.41 Adopt the bill on reorganizing the National Human Rights Commission, which will also function as the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture (Kingdom of the Netherlands);
- 136.42 Ensure that this mechanism is compliant with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Kingdom of the Netherlands);
- 136.43 Support the creation of the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture, following the recommendation of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, in order to eliminate the practice of arbitrary detention and improve the conditions of persons deprived of liberty (Costa Rica);
- 136.44 Maintain the positive path towards strengthening the mandate of the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture (Morocco);
- 136.45 Expedite the operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission, and ensure that the Commission complies with the Paris Principles (Latvia);
- 136.46 Accelerate the process to operationalize the National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);
- 136.47 Continue efforts to ensure the operationalization of the National Commission on Human Rights in accordance with the Paris Principles (Malaysia);
- 136.48 Intensify the work of the Human Rights Commission to address cases of abusive or excessive detention (United States of America);
- 136.49 Take all necessary steps to establish a national preventive mechanism as outlined in the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other

Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, with sufficient financial, human and technical resources to effectively prevent torture fully, in accordance with the guidelines on national preventive mechanisms and the Paris Principles (Denmark);

136.50 **Take the necessary measures to provide human and material resources to the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture, which is currently being created, as well as to guarantee its independence (Uruguay);**

136.51 **Establish an independent national human rights institution fully compliant with the Paris Principles (Finland);**

136.52 **Continue its efforts to ensure that the Human Rights Commission complies with the Paris Principles (Georgia);**

136.53 **Continue efforts to bring the National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles and allocate adequate human and financial resources for its proper functioning (Luxembourg);**

136.54 **Step up efforts to strengthen the national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Nepal);**

136.55 **Create the National Human Rights Commission, as announced and reaffirmed in the *dialogue politique intensifié* between Gabon and the European Union, adopting corresponding laws in the Assemblée Nationale (Germany);**

136.56 **Strengthen the capacity of the National Commission for Human Rights (Ethiopia);**

136.57 **Consider coordinating efforts to strengthen the role of the National Human Rights Commission (Greece);**

136.58 **Continue efforts aimed at strengthening national human rights bodies (Mauritania);**

136.59 **Continue efforts to fulfil the commitments to strengthen the various national mechanisms for the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, including the National Human Rights Commission (Yemen);**

136.60 **Ensure the independence of the bodies in charge of regulating the media, in order to ensure the rights to freedom of expression, including for members of the press and other media (Canada);**

136.61 **Establish a permanent national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up of human rights recommendations (Paraguay);**

136.62 **Promote civil and political rights (Cameroon);**

136.63 **Step up the fight to end ritual crimes, including through awareness-raising campaigns (Uruguay);**

136.64 **Respect the safeguards against arbitrary arrest and detention, and prevent and punish cases of torture of detainees and prisoners (Spain);**

136.65 **Strengthen the protection and rights of victims of enforced disappearance and their families (Cabo Verde);**

136.66 **Work on the deteriorating prison conditions and the increasing length of pretrial detention (Estonia);**

136.67 **Step up efforts to ensure protection of the rights of all detained persons and improve the conditions of detention (Italy);**

136.68 **Strengthen measures to improve prison conditions (Lesotho);**

136.69 **Take measures to improve the detention conditions of persons deprived of their liberty in the various detention centres in the country (Mali);**

136.70 **Expand projects aimed at developing the infrastructure to build and expand prisons, and reduce prison overcrowding (Pakistan);**

- 136.71 Continue to take measures aimed at addressing the situation in the judicial and penitentiary systems (Russian Federation);
- 136.72 Improve the functioning of its judicial and penitentiary services, in particular the conditions of detention and imprisonment, and provide detainees with adequate services (Canada);
- 136.73 Adopt the necessary legislative and other measures so that all cases of enforced disappearance are outside the jurisdiction of military courts and can be investigated and tried by ordinary courts only (Argentina);
- 136.74 Establish effective procedures for investigating sexual violence against and harassment of girls in schools and prosecute the perpetrators of such acts (Belgium);
- 136.75 Identify, investigate and prosecute all perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses, including those within the security forces (Australia);
- 136.76 Take all necessary measures, both in law and in practice, to combat violence against women and girls and domestic violence, including by ensuring access to justice for victims and survivors, and raising women's awareness of their rights (Latvia);
- 136.77 Guarantee the right of detainees to access legal counsel (Spain);
- 136.78 Fully guarantee the exercise of the rights to the freedoms of peaceful assembly, association, press and expression, among other things by reforming the 2017 law, repealing the restrictive provisions of the 2017 Communications Code and article 221 of the Criminal Code, which potentially infringes on freedom of expression and religion (Spain);
- 136.79 Ensure the Gabonese Elections Centre is fully resourced and empowered to help ensure free and fair elections, and deliver a fair process for reporting and ensuring accountability for any irregularities (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 136.80 Take further steps to establish an independent regulatory mechanism to oversee the media, protect journalists and ensure their free and independent work (Armenia);
- 136.81 Protect and promote freedom of expression, online and offline, as well as the independent work of journalists (Belgium);
- 136.82 Protect the rights of all individuals to freedom of opinion and expression and ensure that members of civil society and media workers can operate safely, without fear of retribution of any kind (Croatia);
- 136.83 Uphold freedom of expression and information offline and online by refraining from implementing Internet shutdowns (Estonia);
- 136.84 Maintain freedom of expression and information (Greece);
- 136.85 Strengthen efforts to promote the rights to freedom of expression and of peaceful assembly (Indonesia);
- 136.86 Create and ensure a safe and enabling environment for freedom of expression by amending the Communications Code to ensure that it is in line with international best practices and standards on freedom of expression (Ireland);
- 136.87 Ensure that human rights defenders, political opposition and journalists who are exercising their right to freedom of expression are not subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention (Ireland);
- 136.88 Take concrete measures to ensure the full exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and promote a safe environment for civil society (Italy);

- 136.89 **Seek to strengthen the protection of freedom of expression and access to information offline and online by aligning national laws with international standards and refraining from Internet shutdown practices (Lithuania);**
- 136.90 **Promote freedom of assembly (Malawi);**
- 136.91 **Take the necessary measures to ensure freedom of association and assembly (Canada);**
- 136.92 **Strengthen legislative and institutional frameworks to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons (Namibia);**
- 136.93 **Expedite the process of adopting the anti-human trafficking plan and prosecute perpetrators (Sierra Leone);**
- 136.94 **Put in place a formal anti-trafficking plan to meet the minimum standards to eliminate human trafficking in the country (Gambia);**
- 136.95 **Establish a national action plan to deal with child, early and forced marriage, providing an integrated vision, a monitoring system and clear targets and directions to all involved sectors, including child trafficking and child labour (Romania);**
- 136.96 **Take urgent legislative and institutional measures to adopt a national plan to fight child trafficking (Poland);**
- 136.97 **Intensify efforts to combat trafficking in persons and adopt the necessary measures to operationalize the national commission to prevent and combat trafficking in persons that is currently being created (Uruguay);**
- 136.98 **Finalize the adoption process of the draft text on the national commission to prevent and combat trafficking in persons (Burkina Faso);**
- 136.99 **Further enhance its efforts to combat human trafficking through genuine collaboration with the regional and international organizations involved in this issue (Somalia);**
- 136.100 **Redouble its efforts to combat all forms of human trafficking (Ukraine);**
- 136.101 **Continue to take action to combat trafficking in persons and enhance capacity-building measures for the relevant State authorities (Azerbaijan);**
- 136.102 **Continue with the efforts to create a national commission to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and to ensure that it is fully operational (Dominican Republic);**
- 136.103 **Provide training for law enforcement officers, border control personnel and health-care providers on the early identification of victims of human trafficking (Estonia);**
- 136.104 **Allocate sufficient resources and training for authorities on anti-trafficking measures in order to help the victims and prosecute the perpetrators (India);**
- 136.105 **Guarantee that the regulation of the commission to prevent and combat trafficking in persons complies with international human rights obligations and standards, and reinforce the national plan to combat trafficking in persons for the early identification and protection of victims (Mexico);**
- 136.106 **Further reinforce the framework to combat human trafficking (Pakistan);**
- 136.107 **Allocate resources and training for authorities to be able to properly identify human trafficking so they can help the victims and prosecute the perpetrators (South Africa);**

- 136.108 **Continue to strengthen social programmes by placing particular emphasis on the areas of education, nutrition and health in order to improve the quality of life of its inhabitants, in particular those most in need (Algeria);**
- 136.109 **Consolidate its social programmes and policies for the welfare of its people (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 136.110 **Provide access to clean water and sanitation in school settings (State of Palestine);**
- 136.111 **Take additional measures to accelerate access for all to drinking water and sanitation, while ensuring sustainable management of water resources (Angola);**
- 136.112 **Further strengthen measures taken to ensure economic and social sustainable development in order to improve steadily the standard of living for all (Bahrain);**
- 136.113 **Continue to promote economic and social development (China);**
- 136.114 **Continue to strengthen the implementation of the Gabon Égalité strategy through allocating adequate human, technical and financial resources (Lithuania);**
- 136.115 **Ensure observance of the rights of people in detention, such as access to adequate food, health care and decent conditions (Malawi);**
- 136.116 **Expedite the implementation of the Integrated Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Programmes in Greater Libreville and the Access to Basic Services in Rural Areas Project to ensure adequate access to basic amenities with a view to improving the living conditions of the population (Malaysia);**
- 136.117 **Intensify efforts to increase equitable access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene through the ongoing projects (Maldives);**
- 136.118 **Continue to strengthen its policies to improve access to health care for its population (Singapore);**
- 136.119 **Improve prison conditions, including by ensuring adequate sanitation, medical care and consistent access to potable water and nutritious food (Australia);**
- 136.120 **Strengthen measures and programmes aimed at improving the availability and accessibility of sexual and reproductive health and family planning services for women and girls, especially rural women and girls (Colombia);**
- 136.121 **Strengthen the accountability measures of national and transnational companies, especially in relation to the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment (Costa Rica);**
- 136.122 **Continue to create an enabling environment for the improvement of public health through the national health strategy (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**
- 136.123 **Continue efforts to improve health services for all people without discrimination (Iraq);**
- 136.124 **Redouble efforts to improve primary health care, with a view to preparing for evolving COVID-19 variants or any other health crisis that could beset the country (Lesotho);**
- 136.125 **Adopt a strategy to improve conditions in detention centres, reduce overcrowding, ensure access to quality health and sanitation services, and prevent and eliminate torture (Mexico);**

- 136.126 **Implement the Nairobi Summit on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25) commitment to tackle maternal mortality by extending the maternal health policy (South Africa);**
- 136.127 **Move forward in taking measures aimed at developing the national campaign for comprehensive education (Saudi Arabia);**
- 136.128 **Take concrete measures to reduce existing educational inequalities facing vulnerable persons, including refugees and internally displaced persons (Sierra Leone);**
- 136.129 **Raise awareness of the importance of girls' education at all levels as a basis for their empowerment, extend free education until the age of 12 and continue its efforts towards inclusive education, particularly for persons with disabilities (State of Palestine);**
- 136.130 **Ensure the right to education to all by enhancing access to education (Sri Lanka);**
- 136.131 **Raise awareness of the importance of girls' education at all levels for their empowerment (Türkiye);**
- 136.132 **Implement a more comprehensive national strategy on inclusive education, including for children with disabilities, and tertiary education for girls (Viet Nam);**
- 136.133 **Strengthen training for officers at the High Communications Authority on international human rights law (United States of America);**
- 136.134 **Take the appropriate measures to strengthen an education system specialized in environmental issues (Angola);**
- 136.135 **Continue efforts to guarantee better access to education (Brunei Darussalam);**
- 136.136 **Continue its good policy to realize the right to education and improve the quality of teaching and learning at all levels (Burundi);**
- 136.137 **Further increase investment in education (China);**
- 136.138 **Continue national efforts to improve the quality of education, using the National Education Development Plan as a fundamental instrument to increase the quality of the teaching and learning process (Cuba);**
- 136.139 **Continue to focus on the issue of education to ensure accessible and high-quality education for all (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**
- 136.140 **Implement the commitment made at ICPD25 to roll out comprehensive sexuality education in the education system by training educational coaches and reviewing initial and ongoing training curricula, and building the capacity of social workers in schools (Panama);**
- 136.141 **Implement the ICPD25 commitment to roll out comprehensive sexuality education through revision of training curricula, training of coaches and capacity-building of social workers in schools (Iceland);**
- 136.142 **Enshrine explicitly the right to education in the Constitution and extend the age of free education in order to promote inclusive education (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 136.143 **Extend free education to 12 years of age (Luxembourg);**
- 136.144 **Enhance access to clean water and sanitation in schools (Malawi);**
- 136.145 **Strengthen measures already in place aimed at access to free compulsory education for all, up to the age of 12 (Mauritius);**
- 136.146 **Extend free education until the age of 12 (Montenegro);**

- 136.147 **Ensure access to free and inclusive education as a constitutional right (Paraguay);**
- 136.148 **Take further policy action in order to implement, protect and mainstream the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment (Slovenia);**
- 136.149 **Strengthen economic, social and cultural rights (Cameroon);**
- 136.150 **Reinforce accountability for business activity in accordance with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Portugal);**
- 136.151 **Pursue actions to better combat violence and discrimination against women (Senegal);**
- 136.152 **Continue to advance the rights of women, including their public participation (Sri Lanka);**
- 136.153 **Fully implement recent reforms protecting women's rights, adding necessary definitions for discrimination against women into the administrative civil law framework (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 136.154 **Promote the employment and advancement of women in the economy (Sri Lanka);**
- 136.155 **Continue its efforts to register women in the universal health insurance scheme (State of Palestine);**
- 136.156 **Strengthen the fight against discriminatory gender stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and society (Togo);**
- 136.157 **Strengthen measures aimed at eradicating all forms of discrimination against women (Ukraine);**
- 136.158 **Criminalize female genital mutilation (Zambia);**
- 136.159 **Adopt legislative provisions to strengthen women's access to property, land and inheritance (Angola);**
- 136.160 **Enhance its efforts to provide better conditions for women's enjoyment of human rights and effectively implement the Strategy to Promote Women's Rights and Reduce Gender Inequality (Azerbaijan);**
- 136.161 **Continue to strengthen the regulatory framework in place to ensure gender equality and combat violence against women in line with international standards (Bahamas);**
- 136.162 **Step up legislative measures to combat trafficking in women and girls (Bangladesh);**
- 136.163 **Continue to promote gender equality, further safeguarding women's rights (China);**
- 136.164 **Implement awareness-raising measures on the importance of girls' education at all levels as a basis for their empowerment, and ensure the effective retention and reintegration of girls and young women into the education system (Colombia);**
- 136.165 **Strengthen measures in the fight against violence and discrimination against women and girls through a specific legal framework that encompasses intersecting forms of discrimination (Costa Rica);**
- 136.166 **Accompany the new provisions in the Labour Code with national strategies focused on the fight against occupational segregation between women and men and include in these efforts the decriminalization of women exploited for prostitution (Costa Rica);**

- 136.167 Intensify efforts to combat adolescent pregnancy through comprehensive sex education for both sexes and reintegration programmes for girls and adolescent mothers (Costa Rica);
- 136.168 Provide affordable public elderly-care and childcare facilities, in order to increase women's access to full-time employment in the formal sector (Croatia);
- 136.169 Continue efforts in the implementation of the "Gabon Égalité" Strategy to Promote Women's Rights and Reduce Gender Inequality (Cuba);
- 136.170 Continue efforts to combat violence against women and trafficking in persons (Egypt);
- 136.171 Ensure the implementation of the law on access quotas for women and youth by conducting awareness-raising campaigns to empower women's access to political representation and decision-making in the field of work (Estonia);
- 136.172 Step up efforts to promote women's rights (Ethiopia);
- 136.173 Take appropriate measures to strengthen protection against early marriage, in line with the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (France);
- 136.174 Continue measures which further protect and promote women's rights in all areas (Georgia);
- 136.175 Continue the path of implementing national action plans concerning women's participation – inter alia the "Égalité Femmes-Hommes" programme (Germany);
- 136.176 Accompany legal reforms on women's rights with administrative and judicial measures at the central and regional levels, especially with regard to the equal representation of women in public authorities and institutions (Germany);
- 136.177 Continue to take steps to implement legislation already adopted to ensure the equal representation of women in decision-making positions (Greece);
- 136.178 Eliminate patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted stereotypes which contribute to gender-based violence and harmful practices against women (Iceland);
- 136.179 Accelerate efforts to promote the right to health, especially for rural women, in order to control the high rate of maternal mortality and the disproportionately high number of women and girls infected with HIV/AIDS (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 136.180 Continue efforts to enhance women's access to social protection (Iraq);
- 136.181 Spread knowledge about the legislative texts in favour of women and girls to the general public to ensure effective gender equality (Italy);
- 136.182 Continue with efforts to allow the participation of rural women in the development of strategies to facilitate women's access to financial credit, including access to loans with low interest rates (Kenya);
- 136.183 Facilitate access to the social security system for disadvantaged women, especially those employed in the agricultural sector or as domestic workers (Luxembourg);
- 136.184 Consider raising the age of marriage to 18 for both boys and girls (Malawi);
- 136.185 Continue to strengthen measures to eliminate all forms of violence against women (Mauritius);
- 136.186 Enhance access to health care for women, including through the adoption of mandatory health insurance for low-income persons (Montenegro);

- 136.187 Pursue the efforts initiated through the Strategy to Promote Women's Rights and Reduce Gender Inequality, aimed at guaranteeing respect for women's rights and gender equality (Morocco);
- 136.188 Continue efforts towards combating early pregnancies and enhancing access to health-care services to prevent maternal mortality (Nepal);
- 136.189 Adopt under the civil and administrative law frameworks a definition of discrimination against women, in accordance with article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, encompassing direct and indirect discrimination, as well as intersecting forms of discrimination (Romania);
- 136.190 Prioritize informing and sensitizing women on the steps to be taken to take legal action in the event of violations of their rights and with a view to ending impunity for the perpetrators of such violations (Madagascar);
- 136.191 Implement provisions on sexual and psychological harassment, and ensure victims have access to effective, independent and confidential complaint procedures (Israel);
- 136.192 Strengthen awareness-raising campaigns to promote the reporting of cases of rape and gender-based violence, and to combat de facto gender discrimination (Spain);
- 136.193 Pursue efforts to prevent and combat violence against women and girls by providing the responsible bodies with the necessary resources and by enhancing awareness-raising and training actions (Algeria);
- 136.194 Take sufficient, sustained and systematic measures to eliminate entrenched attitudes and stereotypes that contribute to the persistence of gender-based violence and harmful practices against women (Argentina);
- 136.195 Consider revising its 1972 Civil Code to enhance legal equality for married women, including by recognizing gender-based violence as legitimate grounds for divorce (Bahamas);
- 136.196 Initiate an awareness campaign to inform citizens and law enforcement agents about the implementation of Act No. 006/2021 addressing all forms of gender-based violence, including how to report cases and pursue remedies for violations (Denmark);
- 136.197 Provide effective protection to all women, irrespective of their sexual orientation, gender identity, expression and sex characteristics, from gender-based violence and discrimination and ensure their access to justice (Iceland);
- 136.198 Establish effective procedures to investigate cases of gender-based violence against girls in the school setting, including harassment and sexual violence, prosecute perpetrators and provide medical care, psychosocial support and rehabilitation to victims, taking into account considerations of gender, age and disability (Panama);
- 136.199 Redouble efforts to eradicate child marriage and develop measures to address gender-based violence and harmful practices against women, such as sexual violence, child marriage and polygamy (Paraguay);
- 136.200 Continue to strengthen the mechanisms aimed at combating violence against children in all its forms and translating them into targeted actions in this field (Saudi Arabia);
- 136.201 Establish a legal framework and/or a national action plan to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage (Sierra Leone);
- 136.202 Strengthen its national programme to encourage rapid birth registration and issuance of birth certificates to all children born in Gabon (Türkiye);

- 136.203 **Work to bring down the high numbers of unlawfully detained persons, including minors, and improve prison conditions, including by increasing resources (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 136.204 **Resume labour inspections to protect internationally recognized worker rights and eliminate the worst forms of child labour (United States of America);**
- 136.205 **Establish a national action plan to end child marriage (Zambia);**
- 136.206 **Pursue measures aimed at encouraging and raising public awareness of timely birth registration and issuance of birth certificates, as well as increasing the number of registration units to make services more accessible to remote and underserved communities (Armenia);**
- 136.207 **Further develop laws, policies and regulations to monitor and evaluate progress in reducing child labour, and adjust strategies as necessary to ensure effective prevention and control of child labour (Armenia);**
- 136.208 **Continue efforts taken towards ensuring the protection of child rights and access to education under the National Education Development Plan (Bahrain);**
- 136.209 **Adopt policies and plans to ensure quality education for all children (Bangladesh);**
- 136.210 **Revise the provisions of the Civil Code so that the minimum age of marriage is set at 18 for both women and men and raise awareness among traditional and religious leaders, as well as parents, about the harmful effects of child marriage and polygamy (Belgium);**
- 136.211 **Capacitate and support the national women's council to augment its efforts made in protecting and promoting the rights of women and children (Botswana);**
- 136.212 **Adopt additional measures to ensure the right to education of children and adolescents, especially girls, and the effective implementation of the 2012 Education Act (Brazil);**
- 136.213 **Continue efforts to combat trafficking in children and adolescents, including consideration of a national plan to combat trafficking in persons (Chile);**
- 136.214 **Conduct nationwide awareness-raising campaigns and education programmes aimed at addressing the negative implications of child, early and forced marriage (Croatia);**
- 136.215 **Accelerate the adoption of the Children's Code by the parliament to protect girls from child marriage (Gambia);**
- 136.216 **Accelerate its efforts towards adopting comprehensive strategies to combat issues of child marriage in Gabon (Ghana);**
- 136.217 **Enhance measures to prevent and eliminate child labour, including the involvement of children in hazardous work (India);**
- 136.218 **Continue efforts to combat child trafficking (Indonesia);**
- 136.219 **Take further measures to end child marriage (Israel);**
- 136.220 **Advance the fight against trafficking in human beings, especially women and children (Italy);**
- 136.221 **Enshrine the right of every child to free and compulsory primary level education in its Constitution (Kenya);**
- 136.222 **Redouble efforts to abolish the use of corporal punishment in schools (Kenya);**

- 136.223 Take all necessary measures, both in law and in practice, to eliminate child, early and forced marriage, polygamy, ritual crimes and other harmful practices (Latvia);
- 136.224 Pursue efforts to combat trafficking in children, especially girls, and ensure the protection of victims (Lebanon);
- 136.225 Ensure education for all by providing support to children who do not have the means to complete their studies (Lebanon);
- 136.226 Develop and implement a national action plan aimed at ending child, early and forced marriages (Lesotho);
- 136.227 Provide the National Observatory for Children's Rights with sufficient resources and ensure its autonomy and independence (Lithuania);
- 136.228 Strengthen efforts to make accessible the timely registration of births and issuance of birth certificates, especially for poor mothers (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 136.229 Consider allocating funding to provide school supplies for children in vulnerable groups to fulfil their right to education (Maldives);
- 136.230 Revise articles 203 and 205 of the Civil Code to raise the minimum age for marriage to 18 years without exception (Mexico);
- 136.231 Develop a strategy to sensitize citizens, especially in rural communities, on the perils of child, early and forced marriage (Nigeria);
- 136.232 Adopt the Children's Code, which, inter alia, raises the minimum age for marriage of girls to 18 (Nigeria);
- 136.233 Take urgent legislative and institutional measures to adopt a national strategy to deal with child, early and forced marriage (Poland);
- 136.234 Strengthen the measures aimed at realizing the importance of girls' education at all levels and of eliminating violence and sexual behaviour in school environments and implement the existing Education Act in order, inter alia, to ban corporal punishment (Romania);
- 136.235 Continue to adopt a comprehensive strategy to ensure that persons with disabilities can engage meaningfully with their economy and society (Singapore);
- 136.236 Enhance social assistance and protection programmes to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, particularly minorities, persons with disabilities, the poor and women in rural areas (Viet Nam);
- 136.237 Extend the duration of free education up to 12 years and continue efforts in terms of inclusive education, in particular for persons with disabilities (Argentina);
- 136.238 Further strengthen strategies on inclusive education, including for children with disabilities (Brunei Darussalam);
- 136.239 Take steps and allocate additional resources for ensuring quality education for children, in particular for girls and children with disabilities (India);
- 136.240 Strengthen efforts towards extending free education and promoting inclusive education, particularly for girls and persons with disabilities (Lithuania);
- 136.241 Continue taking steps to ensure inclusive education, especially for persons with disabilities (Malaysia);
- 136.242 Take urgent legislative and institutional measures to adopt policies to promote equal treatment of persons with disabilities and to guarantee full enjoyment of their rights (Poland);

- 136.243 **Ensure protection in law and in practice of the rights of vulnerable groups of the population, in particular women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly (Russian Federation);**
- 136.244 **Continue to adopt effective measures to address development challenges in remote areas that experience an inadequate standard of living and public health resources (Bangladesh);**
- 136.245 **Take more steps towards the integration of Indigenous Peoples in public institutions (Burundi);**
- 136.246 **Adopt positive action measures for the recognition of the gender identity of all people, in accordance with their personal autonomy and human dignity (Argentina);**
- 136.247 **Introduce anti-discrimination legislation to address inequality and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Australia);**
- 136.248 **Take measures to effectively protect the LGBTIQ+ population from all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination (Chile);**
- 136.249 **Legalize same-sex marriage between consenting adults (Iceland);**
- 136.250 **Provide effective protection to LGBTIQI persons from violence and discrimination, and ensure their access to justice (Israel);**
- 136.251 **Take proactive measures to prevent discrimination against LGBTIQI people in order to ensure that the decriminalization undertaken is effective (Canada);**
- 136.252 **Accelerate the promotion of non-discrimination often suffered by minorities, women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, including migrants (Cameroon);**
- 136.253 **Continue efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including trafficking in children, as well as smuggling of migrants, with greater emphasis on the prevention and protection of victims of trafficking (Djibouti);**
- 136.254 **Revise its Criminal Code provisions on trafficking to comply with international standards, provide training for first responders, and investigate all allegations of exploitation, abuse and violence against all migrant women and girls (Liechtenstein);**
- 136.255 **Establish standard procedures for the identification and referral of asylum-seekers, including unaccompanied and separated children (Togo);**
- 136.256 **Consider accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Rwanda);**
- 136.257 **Speed up the process of accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Brazil);**
- 136.258 **Pursue the process of accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Chad);**
- 136.259 **Take the necessary steps to expedite its accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Côte d'Ivoire).**
137. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Gabon was headed by H.E. Mrs. Erlyne Antonella NDEMBET DAMAS, Minister of Justice, in charge of human rights and gender equality, and composed of the following members:

- S.E. Mme Mireille Sarah NZENZE, Ambassadeur, Représentant Permanent du Gabon auprès de l'ONU à Genève ;
- M. Kevin Ferdinand NDIMBA, Directeur de Cabinet du Ministre ;
- Mme Edna Paola BIYOGOU épouse MINKO, Directrice Générale des Droits de l'Homme ;
- M. William Rodrigue NYAMA, Premier Conseiller, Mission Permanente du Gabon auprès de l'ONU à Genève ;
- Mme Ines Cécilia MOUSSAVOU NGANDJI, Conseiller Diplomatique du Ministre ;
- M. Stéphane Jean TCHIZINGA, Conseiller du Ministre chargé des Questions Pénitentiaires ;
- M. Steeve NDONG ESSAME NDONG, Avocat Général près la cour d'Appel Judiciaire de Libreville ;
- M. Lévi MFOLO MBA Lévi, Directeur des Affaires Pénales ;
- M. Ferdinand MANGONGO, Conseiller, Mission Permanente du Gabon auprès de l'ONU à Genève ;
- Mme Geneviève OBOLO NGAMPIA, Conseiller, Mission Permanente du Gabon auprès de l'ONU à Genève ;
- M. Roland Steve ENGONE NGYE, Conseiller, Mission Permanente du Gabon auprès de l'ONU à Genève ;
- Mme Syntilla Eveline LIKOUNI, Conseiller, Mission Permanente du Gabon auprès de l'ONU à Genève ;
- Mme Léa Béatrice NDOUMOU OBOUNOU, Déléguée, Ministère de la santé ;
- M. Tanguy NZUE OBAME, Délégué, Ministère du Travail et de l'Emploi ;
- Mme Bertille MATSOUGOU MAYOMBO, épouse Kombila Kombila, Déléguée, Ministère de l'Education Nationale ;
- M. Aimé MOULOUGUI, Délégué Ministère de l'Intérieur ;
- M. Davy Steeve ESSONO, Délégué, Ministère de l'énergie et des ressources hydrauliques ;
- Lieutenant-Colonel Désiré NDOUMBI, Délégué, Ministère de la Défense Nationale ;
- Capitaine IBAMANGOYE, Délégué, Ministère de la Défense Nationale ;
- Vénérable Faustin MBOUNDA, Délégué, Sénateur ;
- Honorable BIAHODJOW, Délégué, Député ;
- Monseigneur Guy Patrick NGUEMA EDOU, Commission Nationale des Droits de l'homme ;
- M. Yann Josiah NDEMBET, Chef du Protocole du Ministre.