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**Human Rights Council**

Twenty-eighth session

Agenda item 1

**Organizational and procedural matters**

**Report of the Human Rights Council on its  
twenty-eighth session**

*Vice-President and Rapporteur:* Mr. Mothusi Bruce Rabasha **Palai** (Botswana)

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## Part One

### Resolutions, decisions and President's statements adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twenty-eighth session

#### I. Resolutions

<i>Resolution</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
28/1	Composition of staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	26 March 2015
28/2	Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights	26 March 2015
28/3	Ensuring use of remotely piloted aircraft or armed drones in counter-terrorism and military operations in accordance with international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law	26 March 2015
28/4	The right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community on an equal basis with others	26 March 2015
28/5	The negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights, and the importance of improving international cooperation	26 March 2015
28/6	Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism	26 March 2015
28/7	Renewal of the mandate of the open-ended intergovernmental working group to consider the possibility of elaborating an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies	26 March 2015
28/8	The effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights	26 March 2015
28/9	Mandate of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights	26 March 2015
28/10	The right to food	26 March 2015
28/11	Human rights and the environment	26 March 2015
28/12	Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights	26 March 2015
28/13	Birth registration and the right of everyone to recognition everywhere as a person before the law	26 March 2015
28/14	Human rights, democracy and the rule of law	26 March 2015
28/15	The right to work	26 March 2015
28/16	The right to privacy in the digital age	26 March 2015
28/17	Effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights	26 March 2015

<i>Resolution</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
28/18	Freedom of religion or belief	27 March 2015
28/19	Rights of the child: towards better investment in the rights of the child	27 March 2015
28/20	The continuing grave deterioration in the human rights and humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic	27 March 2015
28/21	Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran	27 March 2015
28/22	Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	27 March 2015
28/23	Situation of human rights in Myanmar	27 March 2015
28/24	Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan	27 March 2015
28/25	Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination	27 March 2015
28/26	Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan	27 March 2015
28/27	Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem	27 March 2015
28/28	Contribution of the Human Rights Council to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem of 2016	27 March 2015
28/29	Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief	27 March 2015
28/30	Technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in Libya	27 March 2015
28/31	Technical assistance and capacity-building for Mali in the field of human rights	27 March 2015
28/32	Technical assistance and capacity-building in strengthening human rights in Iraq in the light of the abuses committed by Daesh and associated terrorist groups	27 March 2015
28/33	Strengthening of technical cooperation and consultative services in Guinea	27 March 2015
28/34	Prevention of genocide	27 March 2015

## II. Decisions

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
28/101	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Italy	18 March 2015
28/102	Outcome of the universal periodic review: El Salvador	18 March 2015
28/103	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Plurinational State of Bolivia	18 March 2015

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
28/104	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Fiji	18 March 2015
28/105	Outcome of the universal periodic review: San Marino	18 March 2015
28/106	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Kazakhstan	19 March 2015
28/107	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Angola	19 March 2015
28/108	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Islamic Republic of Iran	19 March 2015
28/109	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Iraq	19 March 2015
28/110	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Madagascar	19 March 2015
28/111	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Slovenia	19 March 2015
28/112	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Egypt	20 March 2015
28/113	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Bosnia and Herzegovina	20 March 2015
28/114	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Gambia	26 March 2015

### III. President's statements

<i>President's statement</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
28/1	Twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action	25 March 2015
28/2	Seventieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War	26 March 2015
28/3	Situation of human rights in Haiti	27 March 2015

## **Part Two**

### **Summary of proceedings**

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

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

1. The Human Rights Council held its twenty-eighth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 2 March to 27 March 2015. The President of the Human Rights Council opened the session.

2. At the 1st meeting, on 2 March 2015, the President of the General Assembly (by video message), the Secretary-General of the United Nations (by video message), the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Didier Burkhalter, addressed the plenary.

3. At the 15th and 16th meetings, on 9 March 2015, the Human Rights Council observed the International Women's Day, which had been celebrated on 8 March 2015. At the 15th meeting, on the same day, the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights made a statement. At the same meeting, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office and other international organizations at Geneva, Choi Seokyoung, also on behalf of Australia, Indonesia, Mexico and Turkey, made a statement. At the 16th meeting, on the same day, the Council watched a video that had been prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

4. At the 43rd meeting, on 20 March 2015, the representative of Tunisia made a statement with regard to the attack occurred on 18 March 2015 in Tunisia.

5. In accordance with rule 8 (b) of the rules of procedure of the Human Rights Council, as contained in part VII of the annex to Council resolution 5/1, the organizational meeting on the twenty-eighth session was held on 16 February 2015.

6. At the same meeting, pursuant to a recommendation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as contained in his letter of 13 February 2015 to the President of the Human Rights Council, the Council decided to postpone its consideration of the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka until its thirtieth session (see also paragraph 42 below).

7. The twenty-eighth session consisted of 59 meetings over 20 days (see paragraph 50 below).

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

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



### C. High-level segment

9. At its 1st to 3rd, 5th to 8th and 10th meetings, from 2 to 5 March 2015, the Human Rights Council held a high-level segment, at which 92 dignitaries addressed the plenary, including 1 president, 1 prime minister, 6 vice-prime ministers, 47 ministers, 20 vice-ministers, 12 other dignitaries and 5 representatives of observer organizations.

10. The following dignitaries addressed the Human Rights Council during the high-level segment, in the order that they spoke:

(a) At the 1st meeting, on 2 March 2015: the President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Gjorge Ivanov; the Prime Minister of Fiji, Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama; the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium, Didier Reynders; the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia, Vesna Pusić; the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia, Miroslav Lajčák; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Paraguay, Eladio Ramón Loizaga Lezcano; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Bert Koenders; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Sergey V. Lavrov; the Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of Portugal, Rui Chancelle de Machete; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, M. Javad Zarif; the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Botswana, Pelonomi Venson-Moitoi; the Secretary of State of the United States of America, John F. Kerry;

(b) At the 2nd meeting, on the same day: the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Maldives, Dunya Maumoon; the Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Affairs of Qatar, Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani; the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand, Tanasak Patimapragorn; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Margot Wallström; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liechtenstein, Aurelia Frick; the Minister of Human Rights of Iraq, Mohammed Mahdi Ameen Al-Bayati; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Tamar Beruchashvili; the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, Péter Szijjártó; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, Mangala Samaraweera; the Minister and President of the Human Rights Commission of Saudi Arabia, Bandar bin Mohammed Alaiban; the Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of Mexico, Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo; the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Argentina, Eduardo Antonio Zuain; the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, Naci Koru; the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, Bogdan Benko;

(c) At the 3rd meeting, on the same day: the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba, Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Albania, Ditmir Bushati; the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of South Sudan, Barnaba Marial Benjamin; the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Bård Glad Pedersen; the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Takashi Uto; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, Carlos Ramiro Martinez; the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Baroness Anelay; the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus, Alexandros N. Zenon; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Sergiy Kyslytsya; the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Libya, Hassan al-Saghir; the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Peter Maurer;

(d) At the 5th meeting, on 3 March 2015: the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, Frank-Walter Steinmeier; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria, Ramtane Lamamra; the Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria, Sebastian Kurz; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cameroon, Pierre Moukoko Mbonjo; the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice of Nigeria, Mohammed

Bello Adoke; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Lubomír Zaorálek; the Commissioner for Human Rights and Humanitarian Action of Mauritania, Aichetou Mint M'Haiham; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, Edward Nalbandian; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, Carlos Castaneda; the Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland, Henryka Mościcka-Dendys; the Minister Delegate to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Morocco, Mbarka Bouaida; the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Peter Stenlund; the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Roksanda Ninčić; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, Nguyen Quoc Cuong; the State Secretary for European Integration of Montenegro, Aleksandar Andrija Pejović; the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Iyad Ameen Madani;

(e) At the 6th meeting, on the same day: the Minister of People's Power for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Delcy Eloína Rodríguez Gómez; the Minister of Justice of Namibia, Utoni Nujoma; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ri Su Yong; the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Emigrants of Lebanon, Gebran Bassil; the Minister for International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Mahendra Bahadur Pandey; the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission of the European Union, Federica Mogherini; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Martin Lidegaard; the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uganda, Henry Okello Oryem; the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Spain, Ignacio Ybáñez; the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, Cho Tae-yul; the Undersecretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain, Abdulla Abdullatif Abdulla; the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Juan Carlos Alurralde; the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Kamalesh Sharma;

(f) At the 7th meeting, on 4 March 2015: the Deputy Prime Minister for the Social Sector and Human Rights of Equatorial Guinea, Alfonso Nsue Mokuy; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, Abul Hasan Mahmood Ali; the Minister for Human Rights, the consolidation of democracy, responsible for the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission of Togo, Yacoubou Hamadou; the Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals and Government Spokesperson of the Niger, Marou Amadou; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Erlan A. Idrisso; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, Manuel González Sanz; the Minister of Justice and Human Rights of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Alexis Thambwe Mwamba; the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration of the Bahamas, Frederick A. Mitchell; the Minister Delegate to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Burkina Faso, Moussa B. Nebie; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Latvia, Edgars Rinkēvičs; the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Sierra Leone, Franklyn Bai Kargbo; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, Taieb Baccouche; the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, Charles Flanagan; the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, Anwar Mohamad Gargash; the Deputy Minister of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs of Mozambique, Joaquim Verissimo; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, Thant Kyaw;

(g) At the 8th meeting, on the same day: the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, Benedetto Della Vedova; the State Secretary for Global Affairs of Romania, Carmen Liliana Burlacu; the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Edgardo Riveros Marín; the Deputy Minister of Justice of the Sudan, Isam Eldin Abdelgadir Elzien Mohamed; the Assistant Foreign Minister of Egypt, Hisham Badr; the Deputy Minister of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs of Mozambique, Joaquim Verissimo, on behalf of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries;

(h) At the 10th meeting, on 5 March 2015: the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of the Congo, Basile Ikouébé; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, Lundeg Purevsuren; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, María Ángela Holguín Cuéllar; the President of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights of the African Union, Sylvie Kayitesi.

11. At the 3rd meeting, on 2 March 2015, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ethiopia, Japan, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic.

12. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of a second right of reply were made by the representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic.

13. At the 6th meeting, on 3 March 2015, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Azerbaijan, Bahrain, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Myanmar, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and Turkey.

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

15. At the 8th meeting, on 4 March 2015, a statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of the Russian Federation.

16. At the 10th meeting, on 5 March 2015, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Turkey.

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

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

18. At the 4th meeting, on 3 March 2015, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21, the Council held a high-level panel discussion to further the objective of promoting the mainstreaming of human rights throughout the United Nations system, with a focus on the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights.

19. The United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights made an opening statement for the panel. The Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office and other international organizations at Geneva, Abbas Bagherpour Ardekani, gave a keynote address on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

20. At the same meeting, the panellists Martin Khor, Juan Somavía, Kristin Hetle, Alexey Borodavkin and Juan Carlos Monedero Fernández-Gala made statements. The Council divided the panel discussion into two slots.

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

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria (on behalf of the Group of African States), El Salvador, India (also on behalf of Algeria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Thailand, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam), Indonesia, Morocco, Namibia, Pakistan (on behalf of the States

members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Switzerland<sup>1</sup> (also on behalf of Austria, Liechtenstein, Slovenia), the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Turkey;

(c) Observer for a national human rights institution: International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC);

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action Canada for Population and Development; CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation.

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

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

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria, Brazil, China, France, Portugal, Sierra Leone, the United Arab Emirates;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Burkina Faso, Chile, Ecuador, Egypt, the Sudan, Thailand;

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

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

#### **High-level panel on the question of the death penalty**

25. At the 9th meeting, on 4 March 2015, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 26/2, the Council held a high-level panel discussion on the question of the death penalty, with a focus on regional efforts aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and the challenges faced in that regard.

26. The United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights made an opening statement for the panel. The former President of the Swiss Confederation, Ruth Dreifuss, moderated the discussion for the panel.

27. At the same meeting, the panellists Zainabo Sylvie Kayitesi, Stavros Lambrinidis, Tracy Robinson, Mohammed Bedjaoui and Sara Hossain made statements. The Council divided the panel discussion into two slots.

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

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Albania, Argentina, Botswana, Namibia, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore<sup>2</sup> (also on behalf of Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kuwait, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam,

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

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

Yemen), Timor-Leste<sup>3</sup> (also on behalf of Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Norway;

(c) Observer for a national human rights institution: Human Rights Commission of Malaysia – SUHAKAM (by video message);

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Penal Reform International; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik.

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

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

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria, Brazil, France, Indonesia, Ireland, Mexico, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Paraguay, Portugal, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Jamaica, Liechtenstein, the Republic of Moldova, Slovenia, the Sudan, Turkey;

(c) Observers for intergovernmental organizations: European Union, International Organization of la Francophonie;

(d) Observer for a national human rights institution: Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme du Maroc (CDNH);

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International; Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative; Franciscans International; Friends World Committee for Consultation.

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

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

32. At the 10th meeting, on 5 March 2015, a general segment was held, during which the following addressed the Human Rights Council:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Brazil, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, India, Indonesia;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Angola, Belarus, Iceland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Monaco, Nicaragua, the Republic of Moldova, the Syrian Arab Republic, Uzbekistan, Zimbabwe;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: International Development Law Organization;

(d) Observer for a national human rights institution: International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC);

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<sup>3</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

(e) Invited members of civil society: Pelenisa Alofa, Aliaksandr Bialiatski, Shane Jett, Hassan Shire.

33. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan.

34. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of a second right of reply were made by the representatives of China and Japan.

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

35. At the 11th meeting, on 5 March 2015, the Human Rights Council adopted the agenda and programme of work of the twenty-eighth session.

36. At the 14th meeting, on 6 March 2015, the President informed of the letter of 3 March 2015 from the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism, Ben Emmerson, requesting that the submission of his report and interactive dialogue are postponed to the twenty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council.

37. At the 32nd meeting, on 16 March 2015, the President informed of the letter of 9 March 2015 from the Chairperson of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry to investigate all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly in the occupied Gaza strip, in the context of the military operations conducted since 13 June 2014, Mary McGowan Davis, inviting the Council to consider the possibility of postponing the submission and presentation of the report of the Commission of Inquiry to the twenty-ninth session of the Council.

38. At the same meeting, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Chief of the Programme Support and Management Services of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made a statement in relation to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of a decision to postpone the submission and presentation of the report.

39. At the same meeting, pursuant to its President's proposal, the Council decided to request the Commission of Inquiry to present a procedural oral update on 23 March 2015, without an interactive dialogue, and to postpone the submission and consideration of the report of the Commission of Inquiry to the twenty-ninth session of the Council.

40. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the State of Palestine made a statement as the State concerned.

41. At the 36th meeting, on 18 March 2015, pursuant to its President's proposal, the Council decided to postpone the consideration of the universal periodic review outcome of the Gambia to 26 March 2015 due to additional time needed to receive the position of the Gambia on the recommendations made during the universal periodic review of the Gambia at the 20th session of the Working Group on Universal Periodic Review.

42. At the 55th meeting, on 26 March 2015, the President recalled the decision of the Human Rights Council at its organizational meeting of 16 February 2015 to postpone the consideration of the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka until its thirtieth session (see paragraph 6 above). In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Chief of the Programme Support and Management Services of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human

Rights made a statement in relation to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of that decision.

## **F. Organization of work**

43. At the 4th meeting, on 3 March 2015, the President outlined the modalities for panel discussions which were summarized in the concept notes, which would be two minutes for statements by States Members of the Human Rights Council, observer States and other observers.

44. At the 10th meeting, on 5 March 2015, the President outlined the modalities for the general segment, which would be five minutes for statements by States Members of the Council and three minutes for statements by observer States and other observers.

45. At the 11th meeting, on the same day, the President outlined the modalities for the interactive dialogue on the annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, which would be three minutes for States Members of the Council and two minutes for observer States and other observers.

46. At the 15th meeting, on 9 March 2015, the President outlined the modalities for the clustered interactive dialogues with special procedures mandate holders under agenda item 3, pursuant to the practice introduced at the twenty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council. The total duration of each clustered interactive dialogue would not exceed four hours. Each special procedures mandate holder in a cluster would introduce his or her reports within 15 minutes and respond to questions and make concluding remarks within 15 minutes. As soon as the list of speakers would be available following the electronic registration, the secretariat would calculate the estimated time needed to complete the clustered interactive dialogue with the mandate holders. Should the total duration of a given interactive dialogue be estimated to last less than four hours, the speaking time limits would be five minutes for States Members and three minutes for observer States and other observers. However, if it would be estimated to be more than four hours, the speaking time limits would be reduced to three minutes for States Members and two minutes for observer States and other observers. Should this measure be deemed insufficient to ensure that the total duration not exceed four hours, the speaking time limit would be further reduced, with a minimum of 1.5 minute per speaker.

47. At the 18th meeting, on 10 March 2015, the President outlined the modalities for individual interactive dialogues with special procedures mandate holders, which would be three minutes for States Members of the Human Rights Council and two minutes for observer States and other observers.

48. At the 27th meeting, on 13 March 2015, the President outlined the modalities for the general debates, which would be three minutes for States Members of the Council and two minutes for observer States and other observers.

49. At the 37th meeting, on 18 March 2015, the President outlined the modalities for the consideration of the outcomes of the universal periodic review under agenda item 6, which would be 20 minutes for the State concerned to present its views; where appropriate, 2 minutes for the national human rights institution with “A” status of the State concerned; up to 20 minutes for States Members of the Human Rights Council, observer States and United Nations agencies to express their views on the outcome of the review, with varying speaking times according to the number of speakers in accordance with the modalities set out in the Appendix to resolution 16/21; and up to 20 minutes for stakeholders to make general comments on the outcome of the review.

## **G. Meetings and documentation**

50. The Human Rights Council held 59 fully serviced meetings during its twenty-eighth session.

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

## **H. Visits**

52. At the 12th meeting, on 5 March 2015, the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Enele Sosene Sopoaga, delivered a statement to the Human Rights Council.

53. At the 17th meeting, on 9 March 2015, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Erkki Tuomioja (also on behalf of Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Myanmar, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, the State of Palestine), delivered a statement to the Human Rights Council.

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

54. At its 59th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the Human Rights Council appointed four special procedures mandate holders in accordance with Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21 and its decision 6/102 (see annex IV).

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

### **Twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**

55. At the 52nd meeting, on 25 March 2015, the President of the Human Rights Council introduced draft President's statement A/HRC/28/L.35.

56. At the same meeting, the representative of China made general comments in relation to the draft President's statement.

57. Also at the same meeting, the draft President's statement was adopted by the Council (PRST 28/1).

### **Seventieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War**

58. At the 55th meeting, on 26 March 2015, the President of the Human Rights Council introduced draft President's statement A/HRC/28/L.44.



59. At the same meeting, the draft President's statement was adopted by the Council (PRST 28/2).

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

60. At the 59th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the following observers made statements with regard to adopted resolutions:

(a) Representatives of observer States: Armenia, Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Switzerland, Tunisia (also on behalf of Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America);

(b) Observers for intergovernmental organizations: European Union; International Organization of la Francophonie.

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

62. Also at the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted the draft report (A/HRC/28/2) ad referendum and decided to entrust the Rapporteur with its finalization.

63. At the same meeting, the observers for Association of World Citizens and International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) (also on behalf of Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA); CIVICUS – World Alliance for Citizen Participation; Human Rights House Foundation; Human Rights Watch; International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (FIDH)) made statements in connection with the session.

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

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

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

65. At the 11th meeting, on 5 March 2015, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made a statement in connection with his annual report (A/HRC/28/3).

66. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 11th and 12th meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the High Commissioner questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Albania, Algeria (also on behalf of the Group of African States), Argentina, Bahrain<sup>4</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Botswana, Brazil, Brazil (also on behalf of Chile, Colombia, Uruguay), China, Cuba, Ecuador<sup>5</sup> (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Egypt<sup>6</sup> (also on behalf of Algeria, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Thailand, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zimbabwe), El Salvador, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of)<sup>7</sup> (also on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Ireland, Japan, Maldives, Morocco (also on behalf of the States members and observers of the International Organization of la Francophonie), Namibia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan (also on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Paraguay, Portugal, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Georgia, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mali, Myanmar, Nepal, the Niger, Norway, Oman, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, Senegal, Slovenia, Spain, the Sudan, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay;

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

(d) Observer for a national human rights institution: International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC);

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc; Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development; Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (also on behalf of Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul; Edmund Rice International Limited; Fondazione

<sup>4</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

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

<sup>6</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>7</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale ONLUS; International Catholic Child Bureau; International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (OIDEL); International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development – VIDES; Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco; Teresian Association); Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies; Center for Reproductive Rights, Inc., The; Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, Asociación Civil; Human Rights Watch; International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (OIDEL) (also on behalf of Association apprentissage sans frontieres; Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII; Catholic International Education Office; Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd; Dominicans for Justice and Peace - Order of Preachers; International Catholic Child Bureau; Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco; New Humanity; Organisation pour la Communication en Afrique et de Promotion de la Cooperation Economique Internationale - OCAPROCE Internationale; Teresian Association; Women's Board Educational Cooperation Society); International Service for Human Rights; International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations; Liberation; Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation; Reporters Sans Frontiers International - Reporters Without Borders International.

67. At the 11th and 12th meetings, on the same day, the High Commissioner answered questions and made comments.

68. At the 12th meeting, on the same day, the High Commissioner answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

69. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Egypt, Qatar, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

70. Also at the same meeting, statements in exercise of a second right of reply were made by the representatives of Qatar, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

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

71. At the 27th meeting, on 13 March 2015, the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights presented thematic reports prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary-General under agenda items 2 and 3.

72. At its 27th, 28th and 29th meetings, on 13 March 2015, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on thematic reports presented by the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights (see Chapter III, section D below).

73. At the 45th meeting, on 23 March 2015, the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights presented reports prepared by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary-General under agenda items 2 and 7 (see Chapter VII, section C below).

74. At the 52nd meeting, on 25 March 2015, the Deputy United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights presented the Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation in Iraq in the light of abuses committed by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and associated groups (A/HRC/28/18). In accordance with Council resolution S-22/1, the presentation was followed by an interactive dialogue.

75. At the same meeting, the Minister of Human Rights of Iraq, Mohammed Al- Bayati, made a statement as the State concerned.

76. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria, China, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Lebanon, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Switzerland, Turkey;

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

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Al-Hakim Foundation. Al-khoei Foundation, Assyrian Aid Society - Iraq, AUA Americas Chapter Inc, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities), Human Rights Watch, Human Rights Watch, International Educational Development Inc, International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, Minority Rights Group, Union of Aab Jurists, World Jewish Congress.

77. At the same meeting, the representative of Iraq made final remarks as the State concerned.

78. Also at the same meeting, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

79. At the 52nd meeting, on 25 March 2015, the Deputy United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights introduced country-specific reports submitted by the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights under agenda item 2 (A/HRC/28/3/Add.1, A/HRC/28/3/Add.2, A/HRC/28/3/Add.3, A/HRC/28/20 and A/HRC/28/26).

80. At the same meeting, the representatives of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Cyprus, Guatemala and Iran (Islamic Republic of) made statements as the States concerned.

81. During the ensuing general debate, at the 53rd meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria (on behalf of the group of African States), Ireland, Latvia (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), the Netherlands (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America), the United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Burundi, Greece, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Advocates for Human Rights, Amnesty International, Association for the Prevention of Torture, AUA Americas Chapter Inc (also on behalf of Assyrian Aid Society - Iraq), Centre Europe - Tiers Monde - Europe-Third World Centre, Colombian Commission of Jurists, Indian Council of South America (CISA), International Fellowship of Reconciliation, International Service for Human Rights, Peace Brigades International Switzerland (also on behalf of International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH); World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)), World Barua Organization (WBO), World Organisation Against Torture.

82. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Cyprus, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia and Turkey.

83. At the 53rd meeting, on 25 March 2015, the Deputy United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights presented reports prepared by the High Commissioner under agenda items 2 and 10 (see Chapter X, section C).

## C. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

### Composition of staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

84. At the 55th meeting, on 26 March 2015, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.13, sponsored by Cuba and co-sponsored by Algeria, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Nicaragua, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Angola, Cabo Verde, Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nigeria, the Philippines, the Russian Federation and Singapore joined the sponsors.

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

86. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Brazil, Ireland, Mexico and Pakistan made general comments in relation to the draft resolution as orally revised.

87. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Ireland, a separate vote was taken on operative paragraph 17 of the draft resolution as orally revised. The voting was as follows:

#### *In favour:*

Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, China, Congo, Cuba, El Salvador, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

#### *Against:*

Albania, Côte d'Ivoire, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

#### *Abstaining:*

Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Paraguay

88. Operative paragraph 17 of draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.13 as orally revised was adopted by 24 votes to 19, with 4 abstentions.

89. At the same meeting, the representatives of Botswana and Latvia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Human Rights Council) made statements in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution as orally revised.

90. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Latvia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Human Rights Council), a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution as orally revised. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Maldives, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

*Against:*

Albania, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Korea, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

91. Draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.13 as orally revised was adopted by 31 votes to 16 (resolution 28/1).

92. At the same meeting, the representative of China made general comments and the representatives of Argentina, Namibia, Paraguay and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote after the vote.

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

#### A. Panels

##### Full-day discussion on specific themes relating to human rights and climate change

93. A full-day discussion on specific themes relating to human rights and climate change was held on 6 March 2015, in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 26/27. The discussion was divided into two panel discussions: the first panel discussion was held at the 13th meeting, on 6 March 2015; the second panel discussion was held at the 14th meeting, on the same day.

94. The first panel discussion was held at the 13th meeting, on the same day. The topic of the panel discussion was identifying challenges and ways forward towards the realization of all human rights for all, including the right to development, in particular those in vulnerable situations, as well as the measures and best practices to promote and protect human rights that can be adopted by States in addressing the adverse effects of climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of human rights.

95. The Secretary-General of the United Nations made introductory remarks (by video message). The United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights made an opening statement for the panel. The Executive Director of the South Centre, Martin Khor, moderated the discussion for the panel.

96. At the same meeting, for the first panel, the panellists Anote Tong, Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, Mary Robinson, Dan Bondi Ogolla, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz and Mithika Mwenda made statements. The Council divided the first panel discussion into two slots, both held at the 13th meeting, on the same day.

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

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria (on behalf of the Group of African States), Bangladesh (also on behalf of Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Uganda, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), Ecuador<sup>8</sup> (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), El Salvador, India, Paraguay, the Philippines<sup>9</sup> (also on behalf of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Kiribati, Madagascar, Maldives, Nepal, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, the United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Viet Nam), Sierra Leone;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Chile, Sweden (also on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway), the Holy See;

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

(d) Observer for a national human rights institution: Scottish Human Rights Commission;

<sup>8</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>9</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Centre Europe - Tiers Monde - Europe-Third World Centre; Lutheran World Federation (also on behalf of ACT Alliance).

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

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

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Estonia, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Ireland, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Pakistan, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Costa Rica, Fiji, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nepal, Spain, Switzerland;

(c) Observers for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Franciscans International (also on behalf of Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd); International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik.

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

101. The second panel discussion was held at the 14th meeting, on the same day. The topic of the panel discussion was the adverse impact of climate change on States' efforts to progressively realize the right to food, and policies, lessons learned and good practices.

102. The Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Hilal Elver, made a statement (by video statement). The Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, John Knox, moderated the discussion for the panel.

103. At the same meeting, the panellists Enele Sosene Sopoaga, Renan B. Dalisay, Xiangjun Yao, Olav Fykse Tveit, Elizabeth Mpofo and Ana-Maria Suarez Franco made statements. The Council divided the second panel discussion into two slots, both held at the 14th meeting, on the same day.

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

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cuba, Maldives, South Africa;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Egypt, Fiji, Slovenia, Uruguay;

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: United Nations Environment Programme;

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

(e) Observer for a non-governmental organization: Action Canada for Population and Development.

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



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

- (a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: China, Gabon, Ireland, Nigeria, Portugal, Qatar;
- (b) Representatives of observer States: Bhutan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Peru, the Sudan;
- (c) Observer for a United Nations entity, specialized agency and related organization: International Organization for Migration;
- (d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: International Development Law Organization.

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

108. Also at the same meeting, the President of Mary Robinson Foundation –Climate Justice, Mary Robinson, made closing remarks on the full-day discussion.

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

109. At its 20th meeting, on 10 March 2015, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 25/20, the Council held its annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities in the form of a panel discussion. The focus of the discussion was on article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on living independently and being included in the community.

110. The Director of the Research and Right to Development Division of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made an opening statement for the panel.

111. At the same meeting, the panellists Hyung Shik Kim, Catalina Devandas Aguilar, Alina Grigoras, Gunta Anca and Quincy Mwiya made statements. The Council divided the panel discussion into two slots.

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

- (a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria (on behalf of the Group of African States), Bahrain<sup>10</sup> (also on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Ecuador<sup>11</sup> (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Germany, Ireland, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Paraguay, Sierra Leone, the United States of America;
- (b) Representatives of observer States: Finland (also on behalf of Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden), Greece, Nicaragua, Togo;
- (c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;
- (d) Observer for a national human rights institution: Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- (e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action Canada for Population and Development; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik.

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

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

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

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

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Albania, Brazil, China, Cuba, France, Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, Namibia, Portugal, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Angola, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Costa Rica, Egypt, Israel, New Zealand, the Republic of Moldova, Turkey;

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

(d) Observer for a national human rights institution: Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme du Maroc (CDNH);

(e) Observer for a non-governmental organization: Down Syndrome International.

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

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

116. An annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child was held on 12 March 2015, in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 25/6. The meeting was focused on the theme "Towards better investment in the rights of the child", and was informed by the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/28/33). The meeting was divided into two panel discussions: the first panel discussion was held at the 24th meeting, on 12 March 2015; the second panel discussion was held at the 26th meeting, on the same day.

117. The first panel discussion was held at the 24th meeting, on the same day. The Director of the Research and Right to Development Division of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made an opening statement for the panel. The Council then watched a video "Children's Voices". The Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Ricardo González Arenas, moderated the discussion for the panel.

118. At the same meeting, for the first panel, the panellists Bob Muchabaiwa, Jorge Cardona, Shaamela Cassiem and Jingqing Chai made statements. The Council divided the first panel discussion into two slots, both held at the 24th meeting, on the same day.

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

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Bahrain<sup>12</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Canada<sup>13</sup> (on behalf of the States members and observers of the International Organization of la Francophonie), France, Paraguay, Portugal, the Russian Federation, the United States of America;

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

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

(b) Representatives of observer States: Croatia (also on behalf of Austria and Slovenia), Norway (also on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden), Togo, Turkey;

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

(d) Observer for a national human rights institution: Scottish Human Rights Commission;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Groupe des ONG pour la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant (also on behalf of Geneva Infant Feeding Association (IBFAN-GIFA); International Movement ATD Fourth World; Plan International; Save the Children International); Plan International (also on behalf of Geneva Infant Feeding Association (IBFAN-GIFA); Groupe des ONG pour la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant; International Movement ATD Fourth World; Save the Children International).

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

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

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Albania, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Estonia, Germany, India, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Bahrain, Chile, Israel, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Nepal, Nicaragua, Poland, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand;

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS;

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: International Development Law Organization;

(e) Observer for a national human rights institution: Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme du Maroc (CDNH);

(f) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action Canada for Population and Development; International Catholic Child Bureau (also on behalf of Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities); Company of the Daughters of Charity of Vincent de Paul; Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd); Myochikai (Arigatou Foundation).

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

123. The second panel discussion was held at the 26th meeting, on the same day. The Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning made an opening statement for the panel. The Ambassador and Head of the Permanent Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Peter Sørensen, moderated the discussion for the panel.

124. At the same meeting, the panellists Stefanie Conrad, Enrique Vásquez, Marc Dullaert and Yehualashet Mekonen made statements. The Council divided the second panel discussion into two slots, both held at the 26th meeting, on the same day.

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

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria, Cuba, Ecuador<sup>14</sup> (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Kazakhstan, Qatar, Sierra Leone;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Angola, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Colombia, Monaco, the Sudan;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Alsalam Foundation; Save the Children International (also on behalf of Geneva Infant Feeding Association (IBFAN-GIFA); Groupe des ONG pour la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant; International Movement ATD Fourth World; Plan International); World Organisation Against Torture (also on behalf of Defence for Children International (DCI)).

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

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

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Ghana, Indonesia, Maldives, Montenegro;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Ecuador, Egypt, Malaysia;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Drepavie; Human Rights Advocates Inc.; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik; World Environment and Resources Council (WERC); World Jewish Congress.

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

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

### **Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment**

129. At the 15th meeting, on 9 March 2015, the Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, John Knox, presented his report (A/HRC/28/61 and Add.1-2).

130. At the same meeting, the representative of France made a statement as the State concerned.

131. Also at the same meeting, the Commission National Consultative des Droits de l'Homme France made a statement.

132. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the Independent Expert questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria (also on behalf of the Group of African States), Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, China, Cuba, Ecuador<sup>15</sup> (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Gabon, Ghana, Indonesia, Ireland, Maldives, Morocco, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Paraguay, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

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

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

(b) Representatives of observer States: Chile, Costa Rica, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Philippines, Slovenia, Switzerland, Uruguay, the Holy See;

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: United Nations Environment Programme;

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

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Earthjustice; Franciscans International (also on behalf of Center of Concern); Friends World Committee for Consultation; Human Rights Advocates Inc.; Human Rights Now; International Buddhist Relief Organisation; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik.

133. Also at the same meeting, the Independent Expert answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

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

134. At the 15th meeting, on 9 March 2015, the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, Juan Bohoslavsky, presented his reports (A/HRC/28/59 and Add.1, and A/HRC/28/60 and Corr.1).

135. At the same meeting, the representative of Iceland made a statement as the State concerned.

136. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the Independent Expert questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria (also on behalf of the Group of African States), Argentina, Bahrain<sup>16</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Cuba, Ecuador<sup>17</sup> (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), El Salvador, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Chile, Egypt, the Sudan, Tunisia;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS) Asociación Civil; Franciscans International (also on behalf of Center of Concern).

137. Also at the same meeting, the Independent Expert answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

**Special Rapporteur on the right to food**

138. At the 16th meeting, on 9 March 2015, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Hilal Elver, presented her report (A/HRC/28/65).

139. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 16th and 17th meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

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

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

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria (also on behalf of the Group of African States), Bahrain<sup>18</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, China, Cuba, Ecuador<sup>19</sup> (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), El Salvador, France, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Morocco, Namibia, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Paraguay, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Burkina Faso, Egypt, Eritrea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Luxembourg, Malaysia, the Niger, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Turkey;

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

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

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action Canada for Population and Development; Centre Europe - Tiers Monde - Europe-Third World Centre; Foodfirst Information and Action Network (FIAN); Franciscans International; Friends World Committee for Consultation; Indian Council of South America (CISA); International Buddhist Relief Organisation; International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations; Lutheran World Federation (also on behalf of ACT Alliance); ONG Hope International.

140. At the 17th meeting, on the same day, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

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

141. At the 16th meeting, on 9 March 2015, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, Leilani Farha, presented her report (A/HRC/28/62).

142. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 16th and 17th meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria (also on behalf of the Group of African States), Bahrain<sup>20</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Cuba, Ecuador<sup>21</sup> (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Ethiopia, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Paraguay, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Egypt, Finland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Norway, Serbia, Sweden, Thailand, Togo;

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

(d) Observer for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;

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

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

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

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

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Al-khwei Foundation; BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights; Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Human Rights Advocates Inc.; Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development.

143. At the 17th meeting, on the same day, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

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

144. At the 17th meeting, on 9 March 2015, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Juan Méndez, presented his report (A/HRC/28/68 and Add.1-4).

145. At the same meeting, the representatives of Mexico, Tajikistan and Tunisia made statements as the States concerned.

146. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 17th meeting, on 9 March 2015, and the 18th meeting, on 10 March 2015, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria (also on behalf of the Group of African States), Botswana, Brazil, China, the Congo, Cuba, Estonia, France, Indonesia, Ireland, Morocco, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Paraguay, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Austria, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Chile, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Egypt, Georgia, Greece, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uruguay;

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);

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

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International; Association for the Prevention of Torture; Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, Asociación Civil; Conectas Direitos Humanos; Penal Reform International; World Organisation Against Torture.

147. At the 18th meeting, on 10 March 2015, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

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

148. At the 17th meeting, on 9 March 2015, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Michel Forst, presented his report (A/HRC/28/63 and Add.1).

149. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 17th meeting, on 9 March 2015, and the 18th meeting, on 10 March 2015, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria (also on behalf of the Group of African States), Botswana, Brazil, Cuba, Estonia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Latvia, Morocco, the Netherlands, Pakistan (on behalf of the

Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Paraguay, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Viet Nam;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Angola, Austria, Burkina Faso, Chile, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uruguay, the State of Palestine;

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

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action Canada for Population and Development; Amnesty International; Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development; Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative; East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project; France Libertés : Fondation Danielle Mitterrand; Human Rights House Foundation; International Service for Human Rights; Liberation; Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational and Transparty; Social Service Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany.

150. At the 18th meeting, on 10 March 2015, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

151. At the 19th meeting, on the same day, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Cuba, the Sudan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

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

152. At the 18th meeting, on 10 March 2015, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Catalina Devandas Aguilar, presented her report (A/HRC/28/58).

153. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 18th and 19 meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Brazil, China, Cuba, Ghana, India, Mexico, Morocco, Paraguay, Qatar, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, Georgia, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Niger, Norway, Spain, the Sudan, Thailand;

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

(d) Observer for a national human rights institution: International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC);

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: European Disability Forum; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik.

154. At the 19th meeting, on the same day, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

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

155. At the 19th meeting, on 10 March 2015, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Heiner Bielefeldt, presented his report (A/HRC/28/66 and Add.1-4).



156. At the same meeting, the representatives of Kazakhstan and Viet Nam made statements as the States concerned.

157. During the ensuing interactive dialogue at the 19th meeting, on 10 March 2015, and the 21st meeting, on 11 March 2015, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Albania, Algeria, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, China, Cuba, France, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Morocco, the Netherlands, Pakistan (on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Paraguay, Portugal, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Singapore, Slovakia, the Sudan, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Holy See;

(c) Observers for intergovernmental organizations: Council of Europe, European Union, International Development Law Organization, Organization of Islamic Cooperation;

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

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Al-khoei Foundation; Espace Afrique International; Franciscans International; Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights; International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (FIDH); International Lesbian and Gay Association; International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR) (also on behalf of Franciscans International); Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik.

158. At the 21st meeting, on 11 March 2015, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

159. At the 23rd meeting, on the same day, a statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of China.

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

160. At the 21st meeting, on 11 March 2015, the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Farida Shaheed, presented her report (A/HRC/28/57 and Add.1-2).

161. At the same meeting, the representative of Viet Nam made a statement as the State concerned.

162. During the ensuing interactive dialogue at the 21st and 22nd meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria, Bahrain<sup>22</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Cuba, Ecuador<sup>23</sup> (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Estonia, France, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan (on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Paraguay, Portugal, Qatar, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

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

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

(b) Representatives of observer States: Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Norway, the Sudan, Thailand;

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

(d) Observer for a national human rights institution: Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme de Mauritanie;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc; Article 19 – The International Centre Against Censorship; Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy; CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation; Human Rights Advocates Inc.; International Buddhist Relief Organisation; International Publishers Association.

163. At the 22nd meeting, on the same day, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

#### **Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography**

164. At the 21st meeting, on 11 March 2015, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Maud De Boer-Buquicchio, presented her report and that of her predecessor (A/HRC/28/56 and Add.1).

165. At the same meeting, the representative of Honduras made a statement as the State concerned.

166. During the ensuing interactive dialogue at the 21st and 22nd meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria, Botswana, Brazil, China, Cuba, Ecuador<sup>24</sup> (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Estonia, France, Gabon, Indonesia, Latvia, Mexico, Pakistan (on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Paraguay, Portugal, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Norway, the Sudan, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand;

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);

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

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII (also on behalf of Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd; Edmund Rice International; International Catholic Child Bureau; International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development – VIDES; Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco; World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations); CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation; Foundation ECPAT International (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes); Institut international pour la paix, la justice et les droits de l'Homme- IIPJDH; The European Centre for Law and Justice / Centre European pour le droit, les Justice et les droits de l'homme; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik.

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

167. At the 22nd meeting, on the same day, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

### **Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues**

168. At the 36th meeting, on 18 March 2015, the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Rita Izsák, presented her report (A/HRC/28/64 and Add.1-2).

169. At the same meeting, the representatives of Nigeria and Ukraine made statements as the States concerned.

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

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria (on behalf of the Group of African States), China, Estonia, Latvia, Mexico, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Armenia, Austria, Greece, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Libya, Lithuania, Myanmar, Switzerland, Turkey;

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

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: ADALAH - Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel; AUA Americas Chapter Inc; Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, Asociación Civil; Human Rights House Foundation; International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR); Minority Rights Group; Syriac Universal Alliance, The. Federation Syriaque International; World Jewish Congress.

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

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

### **Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children**

172. At the 23rd meeting, on 11 March 2015, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, Marta Santos Pais, presented her report (A/HRC/28/55).

173. During the ensuing interactive dialogue at the 23rd meeting, on 11 March 2015, and the 25th meeting, on 12 March 2015, the following made statements and asked the Special Representative questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria (also on behalf of the Group of African States), Botswana, Brazil, China, Cuba, Ecuador<sup>25</sup> (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Estonia, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Latvia, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Pakistan (on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Paraguay, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

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

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Kuwait, Mali, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovenia, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand;

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);

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

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Agence Internationale pour le Developpement; Alsalam Foundation; Foundation ECPAT International (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes); Human Rights Advocates Inc.; International Catholic Child Bureau (also on behalf of Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd); Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik; World Barua Organization (WBO).

174. At the 25th meeting, on 12 March 2015, the Special Representative answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

#### **Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict**

175. At the 23rd meeting, on 11 March 2015, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Leila Zerrougui, presented her report (A/HRC/28/54).

176. During the ensuing interactive dialogue at the 23rd meeting, on 11 March 2015, and the 25th meeting, on 12 March 2015, the following made statements and asked the Special Representative questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria (also on behalf of the Group of African States), Botswana, China, Ecuador<sup>26</sup> (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Estonia, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Latvia, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan (on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Paraguay, Portugal, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Georgia, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Kuwait, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Rwanda, Slovenia, South Sudan, the Sudan, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine, the State of Palestine;

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);

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

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

(f) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Agence Internationale pour le Developpement; Al-khoei Foundation; Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy; Colombian Commission of Jurists; Franciscans International (also on behalf of Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund); Institut international pour la paix, la justice et les droits de

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

l'Homme- IIPJDH; Liberation; Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés (OIPMA); World Jewish Congress.

177. At the 25th meeting, on 12 March 2015, the Special Representative answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

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

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

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

180. At the 27th meeting, on 13 March 2015, the Inspector of the Joint Inspection Unit, Gopinathan Achamkulangare, presented the report of the Joint Inspection Unit.

181. At its 27th, 28th and 29th meetings, on the same day, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on thematic reports under agenda items 2 and 3, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Albania (also on behalf of Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Niger, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America), Algeria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of) (also on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Grenada, Nicaragua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), Botswana, Brazil, Brazil (also on behalf of Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), Chile<sup>27</sup> (also on behalf of Denmark, Ghana, Indonesia, Morocco), China, Cuba, Ecuador<sup>28</sup> (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), El Salvador, El Salvador (also on behalf of Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Japan, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, Sierra Leone, the United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), India, Indonesia (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Iran (Islamic Republic of)<sup>29</sup> (also on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Ireland, Latvia (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine), Lebanon<sup>30</sup> (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada,

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

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

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

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

the Congo, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia, the Holy See), Mexico, Mexico (also on behalf of Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Pakistan, Paraguay, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Senegal, Slovenia, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Uruguay), Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Pakistan (also on behalf of Algeria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Uganda, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam), Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Turkey<sup>31</sup> (also on behalf of Albania, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Yemen), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the United States of America (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Belarus, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Egypt, Libya, Lithuania, the Niger, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Spain, the Sudan, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay;

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

(d) Observer for a national human rights institution: Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain (also on behalf of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Scottish Human Rights Commission) (by video message);

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action Canada for Population and Development; Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans

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

la région des Grands Lacs (also on behalf of African Development Association; Association Duneny; Victorious Youths Movement); African Technology Development Link; Agence Internationale pour le Developpement; Alsalam Foundation; American Association of Jurists; Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain; Article 19 - International Centre Against Censorship (also on behalf of American Civil Liberties Union; Amnesty International; International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (FIDH); Reporters Sans Frontiers International - Reporters Without Borders International); Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism; Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII (also on behalf of Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities); Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul; Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd; Dominicans for Justice and Peace - Order of Preachers; Edmund Rice International; International Catholic Child Bureau; International Movement ATD Fourth World; New Humanity); Auspice Stella; British Humanist Association; Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies; Canners International Permanent Committee; Center for Environmental and Management Studies; Center for Inquiry; Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy; Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, The; CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation; Colombian Commission of Jurists; Commission to Study the Organization of Peace; Conectas Direitos Humanos; European Centre for Law and Justice, The / Centre Europeen pour le droit, les Justice et les droits de l'homme; European Union of Public Relations; Federacion de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promocion de los Derechos Humanos; Friends World Committee for Consultation; Helios Life Association; Human Rights Advocates Inc.; Institut international pour la paix, la justice et les droits de l'Homme- IIPJDH; Institute for Women's Studies and Research; International Association for Democracy in Africa; International Association for the Defence of Religious Liberty -Association Internationale Pour La Defense de la Liberte; International Association of Schools of Social Work; International Catholic Migration Commission (also on behalf of Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII; Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities); Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd; Congregations of St. Joseph; Curia Generalizia Agostiniana; Dominicans for Justice and Peace - Order of Preachers; Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale ONLUS; Franciscans International; Fundacion Migrantes y Refugiados sin Fronteras; Human Rights Watch; International Catholic Child Bureau; International Council of Psychologists; Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Centre; Outreach Social Care Project; Passionists International; Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants; Poverty Elimination and Community Education Foundation; Save the Climat; Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur; Stichting Justitia et Pax Nederland; United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society); International Educational Development, Inc.; International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (FIDH) (also on behalf of Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies; Reporters Sans Frontiers International - Reporters Without Borders International); International Fellowship of Reconciliation; International Humanist and Ethical Union; International Institute for Non-aligned Studies; International Service for Human Rights; International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations; Japanese Workers' Committee for Human Rights; Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture; Liberation; MINBYUN - Lawyers for a Democratic Society; Organisation pour la Communication en Afrique et de Promotion de la Cooperation Economique Internationale - OCAPROCE Internationale; Organization for Defending Victims of Violence; Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation; Permanent Assembly for Human Rights; Prevention Association of Social Harms (PASH); Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme; Society for Threatened Peoples; Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development of Environment; Soka Gakkai International (also on behalf of Al-Hakim Foundation; Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Center (HURIGHTS OSAKA); CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation; Equitas centre international d'éducation aux droits humains; Human Rights

Education Associates (HREA); Institute for Planetary Synthesis; International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR); International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA); International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD); International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (OIDEL); Latter-Day Saint Charities; Servas International; Soroptimist International; Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (OSMTH); Teresian Association); United Nations Watch; United Schools International; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik; Victorious Youths Movement; World Environment and Resources Council (WERC); World Evangelical Alliance (WEA); World Jewish Congress; World Muslim Congress.

182. At the 29th meeting, on the same day, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of China, Ethiopia and Thailand.

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

### **Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights**

183. At the 55th meeting, on 26 March 2015, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran<sup>32</sup>, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.1, sponsored by the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and co-sponsored by China. Subsequently, Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Paraguay and the Russian Federation joined the sponsors.

184. At the same meeting, the representative of Latvia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Human Rights Council) made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

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

186. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (resolution 28/2).

187. At the 59th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

### **Ensuring use of remotely piloted aircraft or armed drones in counter-terrorism and military operations in accordance with international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law**

188. At the 55th meeting, on 26 March 2015, the representative of Pakistan, also on behalf of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Nigeria, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Switzerland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.2, sponsored by Pakistan and co-sponsored by Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Switzerland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen. Subsequently, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, Nigeria, South Africa and the State of Palestine joined the sponsors.

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



189. At the same meeting, the representatives of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

190. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of the Republic of Korea and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

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

*In favour:*

Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, China, Congo, Cuba, El Salvador, Gabon, Ghana, Indonesia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

*Against:*

France, Japan, Republic of Korea, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Albania, Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire, Estonia, Ethiopia, Germany, India, Latvia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Portugal, United Arab Emirates

192. Draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.2 was adopted by 29 votes to 6, with 12 abstentions (resolution 28/3).

**The right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community on an equal basis with others**

193. At the 55th meeting, on 26 March 2015, the representatives of Mexico and New Zealand introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.5, sponsored by Mexico and New Zealand and co-sponsored by Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, the Niger, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cabo Verde, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, the Czech Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, San Marino, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Ukraine joined the sponsors.

194. At the same meeting, the representative of New Zealand orally revised the draft resolution.

195. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Brazil, also on behalf of China, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Pakistan, the Russian Federation and South Africa, made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote.

196. At the same meeting, the draft resolution as orally revised was adopted without a vote (resolution 28/4).

**The negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights, and the importance of improving international cooperation**

197. At the 55th meeting, on 26 March 2015, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of African States, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.8, sponsored by Algeria on behalf of the Group of African States. Subsequently, China, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation with the exception of Albania), Sri Lanka and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined the sponsors.

198. At the same meeting, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of African States, orally revised the draft resolution.

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

200. At the same meeting, the representatives of Latvia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Human Rights Council), Mexico and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

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

*In favour:*

Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

*Against:*

Japan, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Albania, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Korea, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

202. Draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.8 as orally revised was adopted by 33 votes to 2, with 12 abstentions (resolution 28/5).

203. At the 59th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

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

204. At the 55th meeting, on 26 March 2015, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of African States, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.10, sponsored by Algeria (on behalf of the Group of African States) and co-sponsored by Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Israel, Italy, Poland, Portugal. Subsequently, Andorra, Bulgaria, Chile, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Slovenia, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam joined the sponsors.

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

206. At the same meeting, the representatives of Brazil and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

207. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (resolution 28/6).

208. At the 59th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representative of Sierra Leone made general comments after the vote.

**Renewal of the mandate of the open-ended intergovernmental working group to consider the possibility of elaborating an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies**

209. At the 55th meeting, on 26 March 2015, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of African States, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.11/Rev.1, sponsored by Algeria (on behalf of the Group of African States), Cuba and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and co-sponsored by the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Subsequently, Ecuador joined the sponsors.

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

211. At the same meeting, the representatives of Latvia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Human Rights Council) and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

212. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Latvia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Human Rights Council), a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

*Against:*

Albania, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Korea, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

*Abstaining:*

Kazakhstan, United States of America

213. Draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.11/Rev.1 was adopted by 32 votes to 13, with 2 abstentions (resolution 28/7).

214. At the 59th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representative of South Africa made general comments after the vote.

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

215. At the 55th meeting, on 26 March 2015, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.14, sponsored by Cuba and co-sponsored by Algeria, Argentina, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), the Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Nicaragua, Pakistan, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and the State of Palestine. Subsequently, Algeria (on behalf of the Group of African States), the Russian Federation, South Africa and Uruguay joined the sponsors.

216. At the same meeting, the representative of Argentina made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

217. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Latvia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Human Rights Council) and Mexico made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

218. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Latvia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Human Rights Council), a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

*Against:*

Albania, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Korea, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Mexico

219. Draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.14 was adopted by 31 votes to 14, with 1 abstention<sup>33</sup> (resolution 28/8).

220. At the 59th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

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

221. At the 55th meeting, on 26 March 2015, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.15, sponsored by Cuba and co-sponsored by Algeria, Austria, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Croatia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Ethiopia,

<sup>33</sup> Gabon did not cast a vote. The representative of Gabon subsequently stated that the delegation had intended to vote in favour of the draft text.

Georgia, Greece, Italy, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, Spain, the Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic. Subsequently, Algeria (on behalf of the Group of African States), Andorra, Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Haiti, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia, Norway, Paraguay, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand and Uruguay joined the sponsors.

222. At the same meeting, the representatives of Japan, Latvia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Human Rights Council) and the United States of America made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

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

224. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (resolution 28/9).

225. At the 59th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

### **The right to food**

226. At the 55th meeting, on 26 March 2015, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.16, sponsored by Cuba and co-sponsored by Algeria, Andorra, Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Croatia, Cyprus, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Greece, Luxembourg, Monaco, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, San Marino, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Angola, Australia, Austria, Cabo Verde, Costa Rica, Georgia, Haiti, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Myanmar, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Switzerland joined the sponsors.

227. At the same meeting, the representative of Latvia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Human Rights Council) made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

228. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote.

229. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (resolution 28/10).

230. At the 59th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

### **Human rights and the environment**

231. At the 55th meeting, on 26 March 2015, the representatives of Costa Rica<sup>34</sup> (also on behalf of Maldives, Morocco, Slovenia and Switzerland) and Morocco introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.19, sponsored by Costa Rica, Maldives, Morocco, Slovenia and Switzerland and co-sponsored by Angola, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania,

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

Senegal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Uruguay, Yemen and the State of Palestine. Subsequently, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cabo Verde, Chad, Chile, the Congo, Côte D'Ivoire, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Iceland, Libya, Mexico, the Niger, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Serbia, Seychelles, the Sudan and Togo joined the sponsors.

232. At the same meeting, the representative of Costa Rica, also on behalf of Maldives, Morocco, Slovenia and Switzerland, orally revised the draft resolution.

233. Also at the same meeting, the representative of India (also on behalf of Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Egypt, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)) made general comments in relation to the draft resolution as orally revised.

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

235. At the same meeting, the representatives of South Africa and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

236. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution as orally revised was adopted without a vote (resolution 28/11).

237. At the 59th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representatives of Brazil and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote after the vote.

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

238. At the 55th meeting, on 26 March 2015, the representative of Portugal introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.20, sponsored by Portugal and co-sponsored by Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Uruguay and the State of Palestine. Subsequently, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cabo Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Guinea, Iceland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Norway, Rwanda, Serbia, South Africa, Tunisia, Ukraine, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam joined the sponsors.

239. At the same meeting, the representative of South Africa made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

240. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote.

241. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (resolution 28/12).

242. At the 59th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

### **Birth registration and the right of everyone to recognition everywhere as a person before the law**

243. At the 55th meeting, on 26 March 2015, the representatives of Turkey and Mexico introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.23, sponsored by Mexico and Turkey and co-sponsored by Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, Djibouti, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States of America and Uruguay. Subsequently, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cabo Verde, Chile, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, Greece, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Pakistan, Poland, Rwanda, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and the State of Palestine joined the sponsors.

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

245. At the same meeting, the representative of South Africa made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote.

246. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (resolution 28/13).

### **Human rights, democracy and the rule of law**

247. At the 56th meeting, on 26 March 2015, the representatives of Romania<sup>35</sup> (also on behalf of Morocco, Norway, Peru, the Republic of Korea and Tunisia) and Morocco introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.24, sponsored by Morocco, Norway, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Romania and Tunisia, and co-sponsored by Angola, Australia, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Colombia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, New Zealand, Panama, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, and the United States of America. Subsequently, Albania, Algeria, Austria, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cabo Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Djibouti, Finland, Germany, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Lithuania, Mali, Monaco, the Niger, the Philippines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Togo, Ukraine, Uruguay and Zambia joined the sponsors.

248. At the same meeting, the representative of China, also on behalf of Cuba, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), introduced an oral amendment to operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution.

249. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Latvia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Human Rights Council), Pakistan, Saudi Arabia (also on behalf of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates), the Russian Federation, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made general comments in relation to the draft resolution and the oral amendment.

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

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

251. At the same meeting, the representatives of France, Ireland and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the oral amendment to operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution.

252. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Morocco, a recorded vote was taken on the oral amendment to operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Algeria, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Congo, Cuba, El Salvador, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

*Against:*

Albania, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Paraguay, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Argentina, Brazil, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Namibia

253. The oral amendment to operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution was rejected by 18 votes to 23, with 6 abstentions.

254. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of China, a separate vote was taken on operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Albania, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Paraguay, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Congo, Cuba, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

255. Operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.24 was adopted by 28 votes to 0, with 19 abstentions.

256. At the same meeting, the representatives of Bangladesh, China, Cuba, South Africa and Viet Nam made statements in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution.

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



*In favour:*

Albania, Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, Pakistan, Paraguay, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Algeria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

258. Draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.24 was adopted by 35 votes to 0, with 12 abstentions<sup>36</sup> (resolution 28/14).

**The right to work**

259. At the 56th meeting, on 26 March 2015, the representatives of Egypt<sup>37</sup> (also on behalf of Greece, Indonesia, Mexico and Romania) and Greece introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.26, sponsored by Egypt, Greece, Indonesia, Mexico and Romania, and co-sponsored by Algeria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bulgaria, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, El Salvador, Guatemala, Italy, Libya, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Morocco, Paraguay, Portugal, Spain, the Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Angola, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cabo Verde, China, Colombia, Djibouti, Ecuador, Georgia, Honduras, India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Viet Nam and the State of Palestine joined the sponsors.

260. At the same meeting, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

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

262. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (resolution 28/15).

263. At the 59th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

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

264. At the 56th meeting, on 26 March 2015, the representative of Brazil (also on behalf of Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Norway and Switzerland) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.27, sponsored by Austria, Brazil, Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Norway and Switzerland, and co-sponsored by Angola, Argentina, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Chile, Denmark, Djibouti, El Salvador, Georgia, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal,

<sup>36</sup> The representative of Algeria subsequently stated that there had been an error in the delegation's vote and that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft text.

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

Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Uruguay, Zambia and the State of Palestine. Subsequently, Albania, Armenia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cabo Verde, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Latvia, Lebanon, Monaco, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Sierra Leone and Sweden joined the sponsors.

265. At the same meeting, the representatives of China, Cuba, the Russian Federation and Saudi Arabia (also on behalf of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates) made general comments in relation to the draft resolution. In his statement, the representative of Saudi Arabia (also on behalf of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates) disassociated the respective delegations from the consensus on preambular paragraph 13 and operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution.

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

267. At the same meeting, the representatives of South Africa and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote before the vote. In his statement, the representative of South Africa disassociated the delegation from the consensus on the draft resolution.

268. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (resolution 28/16).

#### **Effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights**

269. At the 56th meeting, on 26 March 2015, the representatives of Egypt<sup>38</sup> (also on behalf of Algeria, Bahrain, Cuba, Djibouti, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, the Niger, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and the State of Palestine) and Jordan introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.30, sponsored by Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Saudi Arabia, and co-sponsored by Bahrain, Cuba, Djibouti, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Oman, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and the State of Palestine. Subsequently, Angola, Iraq, the Niger, the Sudan and Togo joined the sponsors.

270. At the same meeting, the representative of Egypt (also on behalf of Algeria, Bahrain, Cuba, Djibouti, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, the Niger, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and the State of Palestine) orally revised the draft resolution.

271. Also at the same meeting, in accordance with rule 116 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the representative of Mexico moved the adjournment of the consideration of the draft resolution as orally revised.

272. Subsequently, the representatives of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the United States of America made statements in favour of the motion. The representatives of Saudi Arabia and Cuba made statements against the motion.

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

273. Under the same rule, a recorded vote was taken on the motion to adjourn the consideration of the draft resolution as orally revised. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Albania, Estonia, France, Germany, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Korea, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Against:*

Algeria, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, El Salvador, India, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Abstaining:*

Argentina, Botswana, Brazil, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Indonesia, Ireland, South Africa, Viet Nam

274. The motion to adjourn the consideration of the draft resolution as orally revised was rejected by 14 votes to 23, with 10 abstentions.

275. At the same meeting, the representatives of Algeria, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made general comments in relation to the draft resolution as orally revised.

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

277. At the same meeting, the representatives of Latvia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Human Rights Council), Mexico, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, South Africa and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

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

*In favour:*

Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, El Salvador, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Maldives, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

*Against:*

Albania, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Korea, South Africa, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Botswana, Gabon, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Namibia, Qatar

279. Draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.30 as orally revised was adopted by 25 votes to 16, with 6 abstentions (resolution 28/17).

280. At the 59th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representatives of Japan and Paraguay made statements in explanation of vote after the vote.

#### **Freedom of religion or belief**

281. At the 57th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representative of Latvia, on behalf of the European Union, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.12, sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and co-sponsored by Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Canada, Georgia, Guatemala, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, Serbia, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United States of America and Uruguay. Subsequently, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Israel, Japan, Monaco, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Sri Lanka and Thailand joined the sponsors.

282. At the same meeting, the representative of Latvia, on behalf of the European Union, orally revised the draft resolution.

283. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution as orally revised was adopted without a vote (resolution 28/18).

#### **Rights of the child: towards better investment in the rights of the child**

284. At the 57th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representatives of Latvia (on behalf of the European Union) and Uruguay<sup>39</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.28, sponsored by Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and co-sponsored by Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, the Congo, Georgia, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste and Turkey. Subsequently, Angola, Barbados, Benin, Canada, Côte D'Ivoire, Japan, the Philippines, Rwanda, San Marino and Ukraine joined the sponsors.

285. At the same meeting, the representatives of India and Qatar (on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council) made general comments in relation to the draft resolution. In his statement, the representative of Qatar (on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council) disassociated the delegations of the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council from operative paragraphs 10, 16(b), 28, 29 and 30 of the draft resolution.

286. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Pakistan (also on behalf of Bangladesh), the Russian Federation, South Africa and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote before the vote. In her statement, the representative of the Russian Federation disassociated the delegation from the consensus on operative paragraph 30 of the draft resolution. In his statement, the representative of Pakistan disassociated the delegations of Bangladesh and Pakistan from the consensus on operative paragraphs 10,

<sup>39</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

12(a), 12(d), 14, 16, 28, 29, 30, 49 and 50 of the draft resolution. In his statement, the representative of South Africa disassociated the delegation from the consensus on preambular paragraph 1 and operative paragraph 30 of the draft resolution.

287. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (resolution 28/19).

288. At the 59th meeting, on the same day, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

### **Prevention of genocide**

289. At the 59th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representatives of Armenia and Rwanda introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.25, sponsored by Armenia and co-sponsored by Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, the Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, France, Greece, Israel, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Slovenia, Spain, Timor-Leste and Uruguay. Subsequently, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte D'Ivoire, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zambia joined the sponsors.

290. At the same meeting, the representative of Armenia orally revised the draft resolution.

291. Also at the same meeting, the President announced that the amendments A/HRC/28/L.39, A/HRC/28/L.40, A/HRC/28/L.41 and A/HRC/28/L.43 to draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.25 as orally revised had been withdrawn.

292. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba introduced amendment A/HRC/28/L.38 to draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.25 as orally revised. Amendment A/HRC/28/L.38 was sponsored by Cuba and co-sponsored by India and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Pakistan and Sri Lanka joined the sponsors.

293. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Pakistan introduced amendment A/HRC/28/L.42 to draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.25 as orally revised. Amendment A/HRC/28/L.42 was sponsored by Pakistan and co-sponsored by Algeria, Cuba and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka joined the sponsors.

294. At the same meeting, the representatives of Cuba, France, India and the United States of America made general comments in relation to the draft resolution as orally revised and the amendments.

295. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Netherlands made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to amendment A/HRC/28/L.38.

296. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of France, a recorded vote was taken on amendment A/HRC/28/L.38. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

*Against:*

Albania, Argentina, Botswana, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Estonia, France, Germany, Ghana, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands, Paraguay, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Algeria, Congo, El Salvador, Gabon, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Qatar

297. Amendment A/HRC/28/L.38 was rejected by 14 votes to 23, with 10 abstentions.

298. At the same meeting, the representative of Latvia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Human Rights Council) made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to amendment A/HRC/28/L.42.

299. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of France, a recorded vote was taken on amendment A/HRC/28/L.42. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Algeria, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, El Salvador, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

*Against:*

Albania, Argentina, Botswana, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Estonia, France, Germany, Ghana, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands, Paraguay, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Qatar

300. Amendment A/HRC/28/L.42 was rejected by 15 votes to 23, with 9 abstentions.

301. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Cuba, a separate vote was taken on preambular paragraph 22 and operative paragraph 17 of the draft resolution as orally revised. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Albania, Argentina, Botswana, Brazil, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands, Paraguay, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Against:*

Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Abstaining:*

Algeria, China, Gabon, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Qatar, Russian Federation, South Africa, Viet Nam

302. Preambular paragraph 22 and operative paragraph 17 of draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.25 as orally revised were adopted by 28 votes to 8, with 11 abstentions.

303. At the same meeting, the representatives of Algeria, Cuba, Pakistan, South Africa and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution as orally revised. In their statements, the representatives of Cuba, Pakistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) disassociated the respective delegations from the consensus on preambular paragraph 22 and operative paragraph 17 of the draft resolution as orally revised. In his statement, the representative of South Africa disassociated the delegation from the consensus on the draft resolution as orally revised.

304. At the same meeting, the draft resolution as orally revised was adopted without a vote (resolution 28/34).

305. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Saudi Arabia (also on behalf of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates) and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements in explanation of vote after the vote. In his statement, the representative of Saudi Arabia (also on behalf of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates) disassociated the respective delegations from the consensus on preambular paragraph 22 and operative paragraph 17 of the resolution.

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

### **A. Oral update by the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea**

306. At the 30th meeting, on 16 March 2015, the Chairperson of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea, Mike Smith, presented an oral update, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 26/24.

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

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

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

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, the Czech Republic, Djibouti, Norway, the Sudan, Switzerland;

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

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International; Article 19 – The International Centre Against Censorship; Human Rights Watch; International Fellowship of Reconciliation.

309. At the same meeting, the representative of Eritrea made final remarks as the State concerned.

310. Also at the same meeting, the Chairperson answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

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

311. At the 33rd meeting, on 17 March 2015, the Chairperson of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, presented the report of the Commission (A/HRC/28/69 and Corr.1), pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 25/23.

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

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

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Albania, Algeria, Botswana, China, Cuba, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Portugal, Qatar (on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council), the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Chile, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark (also on behalf of Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), Ecuador, Egypt, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic



of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, New Zealand, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, the Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Holy See;

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

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International; Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (also on behalf of International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (FIDH)); CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation; Human Rights Watch; Presse Embleme Campagne; Syriac Universal Alliance, The. Federation Syriaque International; Union of Arab Jurists; World Jewish Congress.

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

315. Also at the same meeting, the Chairperson answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

316. At the 35th meeting, on the same day, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey.

317. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of a second right of reply were made by the representatives of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey.

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

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

318. At the 30th meeting, on 16 March 2015, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Marzuki Darusman, presented his report (A/HRC/28/71).

319. At the same meeting, the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea made a statement as the State concerned.

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

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Albania, China, Cuba, Estonia, France, Ghana, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, the Netherlands, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Belarus, Canada, the Czech Republic, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Myanmar, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, the Sudan, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Zimbabwe;

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

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Human Rights Watch; People for Successful Reunification of Korea; United Nations Watch.

321. At the same meeting, the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea made final remarks as the State concerned.

322. Also at the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

**Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran**

323. At the 31st meeting, on 16 March 2015, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ahmed Shaheed, presented his report (A/HRC/28/70).

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

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

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: China, Cuba, France, Germany, Ireland, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Portugal, the Russian Federation, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Belarus, Belgium, Canada, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Eritrea, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Myanmar, New Zealand, Norway, the Sudan, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Zimbabwe;

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

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Baha'i International Community; Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society; International Educational Development, Inc.; International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission; Prevention Association of Social Harms (PASH); Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik (also on behalf of International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission); Women's Human Rights International Association.

326. At the same meeting, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made final remarks as the State concerned.

327. Also at the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

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

328. At the 32nd meeting, on 16 March 2015, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Yanghee Lee, presented her report (A/HRC/28/72 and Add.1).

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

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

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Albania, China, Cuba, Estonia, France, Ghana, India, Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, Pakistan (on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Belarus, Cambodia, the Czech Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lithuania, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand;

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

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International; Article 19 - International Centre Against Censorship, The; Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development; Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, The; Human Rights Now; Human Rights Watch; International Educational Development, Inc.; International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (FIDH).

331. At the same meeting, the representative of Myanmar made final remarks as the State concerned.

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

#### **D. General debate on agenda item 4**

333. At its 34th and 35th meetings, on 17 March 2015, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on agenda item 4, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, France, Germany, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of)<sup>40</sup> (also on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Ireland, Japan, Latvia (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), the Netherlands, Qatar (on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council), the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, Eritrea, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Myanmar, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs; Africa Culture Internationale; African Development Association; African Technical Association; African Technology Development Link; Agence Internationale pour le Développement; Alsalam Foundation; American Association of Jurists; Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc; Amnesty International; Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development; Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism; Association of World Citizens; Auspice Stella; Baha'i International Community; British Humanist Association; Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies; Canners International Permanent Committee; Center for Environmental and Management Studies; Center for Inquiry; Center for Reproductive Rights, Inc., The; Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy; Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS) Asociación Civil (also on behalf of Conectas Direitos Humanos; International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (FIDH)); Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, The; CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation; Commission to Study the Organization of Peace; East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project; Edmund Rice International Limited (also on behalf of Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà

<sup>40</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

Internazionale ONLUS); European Union of Public Relations; Family Planning Association, I.R.Iran; Federacion de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promocion de los Derechos Humanos; France Libertes : Fondation Danielle Mitterrand; Franciscans International; Human Rights House Foundation (also on behalf of Article 19 – The International Centre Against Censorship; CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation; International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (FIDH)); Human Rights Watch; Indian Council of South America (CISA); Institute for Women's Studies and Research; International Association for Democracy in Africa; International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL); International Buddhist Relief Organisation; International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (FIDH); International Humanist and Ethical Union; International Institute for Non-aligned Studies; International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR); International Muslim Women's Union; International Service for Human Rights; International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations; Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture; Liberation; Maryam Ghasemi Educational Charity Institute; Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association; Organisation pour la Communication en Afrique et de Promotion de la Cooperation Economique Internationale - OCAPROCE Internationale; Organization for Defending Victims of Violence; Presse Embleme Campagne; Prevention Association of Social Harms (PASH); Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme; Russian Peace Foundation; Society for Threatened Peoples; Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development of Environment; United Nations Watch; United Schools International; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik; Victorious Youths Movement; VIVAT International; Women's Human Rights International Association; World Barua Organization (WBO); World Environment and Resources Council (WERC); World Evangelical Alliance (WEA); World Jewish Congress; World Muslim Congress.

334. At the 35th meeting, on the same day, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Canada, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, the Sudan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

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

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

### **The continuing grave deterioration in the human rights and humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic**

336. At the 57th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (also on behalf of France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United States of America) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.6, sponsored by France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, and co-sponsored by Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden. Subsequently, Bahrain, Chile, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Sierra Leone,

Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and the United Arab Emirates joined the sponsors.

337. At the same meeting, the representative of Lebanon introduced amendment A/HRC/28/L.36 to draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.6. Amendment A/HRC/28/L.36 was sponsored by Iraq, Lebanon and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

338. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Latvia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Human Rights Council), Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and the United States of America made general comments in relation to the draft resolution and the amendment.

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

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

341. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a recorded vote was taken on amendment A/HRC/28/L.36. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Algeria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, China, Cuba, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Against:*

Albania, Argentina, Botswana, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Maldives, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Bangladesh, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, India, Kenya, Mexico, Namibia, Nigeria, Paraguay, South Africa, Viet Nam

342. Amendment A/HRC/28/L.36 was rejected by 10 votes to 23, with 14 abstentions.

343. At the same meeting, the representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, China, Cuba, the Russian Federation and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution.

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

*In favour:*

Albania, Argentina, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Paraguay, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Against:*

Algeria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, Russian Federation, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Abstaining:*

Bangladesh, Brazil, Congo, Ethiopia, India, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, Viet Nam

345. Draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.6 was adopted by 29 votes to 6, with 12 abstentions (resolution 28/20).

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

346. At the 57th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representative of Sweden<sup>41</sup> (also on behalf of the Republic of Moldova, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the United States of America) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.17, sponsored by the Republic of Moldova, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the United States of America, and co-sponsored by Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Costa Rica and San Marino joined the sponsors.

347. At the same meeting, the representatives of Latvia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Human Rights Council) and the United States of America made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

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

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

350. At the same meeting, the representatives of Brazil, China, Cuba, Japan, Pakistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

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

*In favour:*

Albania, Argentina, Botswana, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Gabon, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands, Paraguay, Portugal, Republic of Korea, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Against:*

Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

*Abstaining:*

Algeria, Brazil, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, United Arab Emirates

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<sup>41</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

352. Draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.17 was adopted by 20 votes to 11, with 16 abstentions (resolution 28/21).

353. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Indonesia made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

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

354. At the 57th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representatives of Latvia (on behalf of the European Union) and Japan introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.18, sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and co-sponsored by Albania, Andorra, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Canada, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Maldives, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and the United States of America. Subsequently, Chile, Costa Rica, Iraq and Ukraine joined the sponsors.

355. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

356. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea made a statement as the State concerned.

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

358. At the same meeting, the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, China, Cuba, Pakistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

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

*In favour:*

Albania, Argentina, Botswana, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Germany, Ghana, Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Paraguay, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Against:*

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, Russian Federation, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

*Abstaining:*

Algeria, Bangladesh, Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa

360. Draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.18 was adopted by 27 votes to 6, with 14 abstentions (resolution 28/22).

361. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Indonesia made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

### **Situation of human rights in Myanmar**

362. At the 57th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representative of Latvia (on behalf of the European Union) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.21/Rev.1, sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and co-sponsored by Albania, Andorra, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the United States of America. Subsequently, Canada, Costa Rica, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland and Turkey joined the sponsors.

363. At the same meeting, the representatives of China, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Pakistan (on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), the Russian Federation, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam made general comments in relation to the draft resolution. In their statements, the representatives of China, India and the Russian Federation disassociated the respective delegations from the consensus on the draft resolution.

364. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Myanmar made a statement as the State concerned.

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

366. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (resolution 28/23).

367. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Japan made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.



## V. Human rights bodies and mechanisms

### A. Forum on Minority Issues

368. At the 36th meeting, on 18 March 2015, the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Rita Izsák, introduced the recommendations adopted by the Forum on Minority Issues at its seventh session, held on 25 and 26 November 2014 (A/HRC/28/77).

### B. Special Procedures

369. At the 36th meeting, on 18 March 2015, the Chairperson of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures, François Crépeau, presented the report on the twenty-first annual meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, independent experts and working groups of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, including updated information on the special procedures, which was held in Geneva from 29 September to 3 October 2014 (A/HRC/28/41).

### C. General debate on agenda item 5

370. At its 36th and 37th meetings, on 18 March 2015, and the 42nd meeting, on 20 March 2015, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on agenda item 5, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: China, Cuba, India, Ireland, Latvia (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine), Namibia, Sierra Leone, the United States of America, Uruguay<sup>42</sup> (also on behalf of Algeria, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Austria, Norway, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uruguay, Zimbabwe;

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

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: ADALAH – Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, African Technical Association, African Technology Development Link, Agence internationale pour le Developpement, Alsalam Foundation, Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc, Amnesty International, AUA Americas Chapter Inc, Auspice Stella, Cannors International Permanent Committee, Center for Environmental and Management Studies, Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy, Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS) Asociación Civil, Commission africaine des promoteurs de la santé et des droits de l'homme, Commission to Study the Organization of Peace, Conectas Direitos Humanos, Ecumenical Federation of

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

Constantinopolitans, Espace Afrique International, European Union of Public Relations, Human Rights House Foundation, Indian Council of South America (CISA), International Association for Democracy in Africa, International Buddhist Relief Organization, International Institute for Non-aligned Studies, International Muslim Women's Union, International Service for Human Rights, Iranian Elite Research Center, Japanese Workers' Committee for Human Rights, Liberation, Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association, Organisation pour la Communication en Afrique et de Promotion de la Cooperation Economique Internationale - OCAPROCE Internationale, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation, Rencontre Africaine pour le defense des droits de l'homme, Union of Arab Jurists, United Nations Watch, United Schools International, US Human Rights Network, Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik, World Barua Organization (WBO), World Environment and Resources Council (WERC), World Muslim Congress.

## VI. Universal periodic review

371. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251, Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, Council decision 17/119 and President's statements PRST/8/1 and PRST/9/2 on modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process, the Council considered the outcome of the reviews conducted during the twentieth session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review held from 27 October to 7 November 2014.

372. In accordance with resolution 5/1, the President outlined that all recommendations must be part of the final document of the UPR and accordingly, the State under Review should clearly communicate its position on all recommendations either by indicating that it "supports" or "notes" the concerned recommendations.

### A. Consideration of the universal periodic review outcomes

373. In accordance with paragraph 4.3 of President's statement 8/1, the following section contains a summary of the views expressed on the outcome by States under review, Member and Observer States of the Council, as well as general comments made by other relevant stakeholders before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary.

#### Italy

374. The review of Italy was held on 27 October 2014 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Italy in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/ITA/1); and its corrigenda (A/HRC/WG.6/20/ITA/1/Corr.1 and 2);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/ITA/2); and its corrigendum (A/HRC/WG.6/20/ITA/Corr.1);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/ITA/3).

375. At its 37th meeting, on 18 March 2015, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Italy (see section C below).

376. The outcome of the review of Italy comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/28/4), the views of Italy concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (*see also A/HRC/28/4/Add.1*).

#### 1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome

377. H.E. Ambassador Maurizio Enrico Serra stated that the UPR 2nd cycle had contributed significantly to taking stock of Italy's domestic situation in the field of human rights. He expressed the utmost appreciation for the attention by all the delegations that had participated in the interactive dialogue. Their contributions led Italy to analyze each issue raised and to discuss with relevant Public Administrations, civil society and

Parliamentarians the opportunity to evaluate the level of protection of human rights and to adopt useful legislative and operational measures.

378. The Ambassador noted that, in comparison with the UPR 1st cycle, where Italy had implemented 74 out of 78 accepted recommendations as well as several ones that had not been accepted, Italy had received 186 recommendations in the 2nd cycle and decided to examine them in detail. Italy had provided a comprehensive response in the addendum and accepted the great majority of the recommendations. In sum, Italy accepted 176 recommendations and noted 10.

379. The Ambassador then gave the floor to the President of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights, H.E. Minister Plenipotentiary Gianludovico de Martino, who had shared with some remarks on the recommendations that Italy had noted.

380. On Recommendations No. 145.1-145.6, Minister Plenipotentiary de Martino underlined that the Italian legislative framework had already guaranteed the rights of regular and irregular migrants. Following the ratification of ILO Conventions nos. 143 and 189, Italy had accepted to be periodically reviewed as to the implementation of these Conventions at the domestic level. Furthermore, Italy was committed to promoting a debate at the European level on this topic, as requested both in the UN and Council of Europe systems.

381. On Recommendations No. 145.126-145.127, the Minister stressed that the protection of children from all forms of violence within the family, including even mild corporal punishment, was enshrined in Articles 2, 3, 29, 30 and 31 of the Constitution, clearly flowing from the CRC. Moreover, the Criminal Code firmly provided for the punishment with imprisonment for any ill-treatment of children within the family.

382. On Recommendation No. 145.170, the Minister highlighted that Italy had not carried out summary returns to Greece. All the operational procedures carried out at sea by Italy had been always implemented according to a case-by-case approach. In other words, each migrant had properly been identified and all personal details had been managed by the competent authorities in order to monitor the single case and related assistance measures.

383. On Recommendation No. 145.182, the Minister stated that integration programs were regularly made available to all regular migrants entitled to stay in Italy. As for migrants arriving in Italy by sea, Italy was fully committed to receive and host them with full respect for their human rights. As of 18 March 2015, over 70,000 migrants were hosted in different kinds of centres. As to their inclusion within national plans and integration programs, this was allowed only to refugees, asylum seekers or to those entitled to humanitarian protection.

384. The Minister then explained about further steps that Italy would take as follow-up to the UPR 2nd cycle.

385. As Italy recalled on the occasion of the Dialogue promoted by UNHCR, on 10 December 2014, devoted to protection at sea, a renewed collective commitment was needed to the principles of search and rescue at sea, while also promoting greater international cooperation and readiness to share responsibilities. In recent months, Italy had been facing an escalating humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean with more than 170,000 people arriving to its shores. 100, 000 people had been rescued through the Mare Nostrum operation. Mare Nostrum was the widest humanitarian operation ever conducted by Italy on a bilateral basis. Still, this active search and rescue was regrettably not enough to save everybody. Italy remained deeply committed to the principles of protection at sea and to the two components of both active search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean.

386. The new Triton European operation was a step towards a responsibility sharing among European countries. Italy was taking full part in the European efforts and would

continue to do its share to prevent further loss of lives in the Mediterranean by the translation of EU Directives aimed at adopting common procedures for international protection and ad hoc measures on the reception and assistance of vulnerable categories of migrants.

387. The EU, under the Italian Presidency, had taken steps to ensure better coordination between the internal and external dimension of its action so as to make migratory policies an integral component of the external action of the EU. The Italian Presidency supported dialogues with third countries of origin and transit of migratory flows in the belief that regional processes with Africa falling within the framework of the EU Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM) were essential. One of the Presidency's major accomplishments had been the organization of the fourth Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development within the "Rabat Process", hosted in Rome in November. Italy launched the "EU-Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative", informally called the "Khartoum Process", which was aimed at creating a new partnership between the EU and the Horn of Africa and Mediterranean transit countries.

388. The Minister also recalled that the access to healthcare assistance for migrants had always been guaranteed anonymously and independently from their regular or irregular status to ensure individual and collective health conditions in emergency or ordinary situations.

389. Moreover, expulsion procedures had been simplified and accelerated, also through the adoption of a domestic Protocol to this scope.

390. Within the current overall justice reform process, several measures had been introduced to reduce prison overcrowding, as recognized by the European Court of Human Rights, following the *Torregiani et. al* judgment.

391. The Minister indicated the great importance attached to the implementation of the principle of non-discrimination, irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. During the EU Presidency, Italy hosted in Rome, the Joint High Level Event on Non Discrimination "Shaping the future of equality policies in the European Union", to stress the importance of equality policies in the EU.

392. On gender issues, in view of the celebration in 2015 of the adoption in 1995 of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the EU Italian Presidency had also organized a High Level Conference on the Platform: "Gender Equality in Europe: Unfinished Business? - Taking Stock 20 Years after the Beijing Platform for Action", held in Rome in October.

393. About the national policies on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, the Minister underlined that they were based on the integration of prevention, protection and repressive measures, to be implemented jointly, with a multi-disciplinary approach, by the public and the private sectors, so as to aim at coordinated actions in all relevant fields (social, educational, informational and legal), in accordance, among others, with the Istanbul Convention. According to this holistic approach, the revised National Action Plan on all forms of violence against women had been adopted in 2013.

394. The Minister also stated that, in order to give practical relevance to the LGBT National Strategy adopted in 2013, a conference had been held in May at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to take stock of the rights of LGBTI persons in the international framework.

395. Lastly, the Minister informed that the Chamber of Deputies had decided to discuss during this week the bill for the ratification of the ICPED, which was expected to be approved over the next days.

**2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

396. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Italy, 16 delegations made statements.

397. Togo noted with satisfaction that most of the recommendations made were supported by Italy and stated that Italy would spare no effort to put them into effect.

398. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela highlighted positively the approval of Law 76/2014, providing for the decriminalization of irregular migration, and the Constitutional Court ruling eliminating the status of irregular migration as an aggravating circumstance of crime. It acknowledged Italy's efforts in fulfilling the recommendations accepted during the first UPR, particularly regarding migration. It encouraged Italy to continue to ensure the human rights of this vulnerable group.

399. Burkina Faso thanked Italy for the information provided. It stated that this information confirmed the view of the delegation that Italy was firmly determined to reach an optimal level of implementation of human rights, despite the many challenges confronting it.

400. China commended Italy for its acceptance of the majority of the recommendations, including China's. It mentioned Italy's commitment to the protection of vulnerable groups. China also mentioned the increase in ODA to developing countries and the maritime relief assistance to refugees, which it hoped that Italy would strengthen. It underlined the need for international cooperation to promote human rights in developing countries, to solve the issue of illegal migrants.

401. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the reforms undertaken by Italy to make its national legislation consistent with international standards. It encouraged Italy to consolidate the efforts to improve the situation of migrants and to promote gender equality, as well as measures to combat human trafficking, racial discrimination and social prejudice. It called upon Italy to continue the cooperation with the international community.

402. The Council of Europe expressed recommendations made by its various monitoring bodies, which remained particularly concerned by: insufficient protection of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers; racist and xenophobic attitudes; overcrowding of prisons; and the excessive length of judicial procedures. It appreciated the measures taken to address those issues and commended the steps taken to develop a legal framework to combat human trafficking, provide long-term assistance to victims, and for the inclusion of the Roma and Sinti communities.

403. Cuba urged Italy to continue to follow up the fight against discrimination in all its forms. It acknowledged the efforts undertaken in this regard and the allocation of significant financial resources. Cuba urged Italy to continue to make progress in immigration and to improve in areas such as the arrival process, detention and integration. It thanked Italy for accepting the two recommendations made by Cuba.

404. Egypt remained encouraged by Italy's efforts in promoting human rights for women, children, and migrants and combating human trafficking. It applauded Italy's efforts to increase sea rescue operations and operating with countries of the region concerning migration management. Egypt encouraged Italy to address the challenges related to racism, racial discrimination, and xenophobia. It noted with appreciation that Italy accepted two of its three recommendations.

405. Ethiopia commended Italy for identifying priority areas in the promotion and protection of human rights, and for accepting a significant number of recommendations, including recommendations made by Ethiopia. It noted with satisfaction the ongoing efforts

by Italy to the protection and promotion of human rights, inter alia on discrimination, women's rights, gender equality, social assistance, education and health care.

406. Greece welcomed the strengthening of legislative and institutional framework for the protection of human rights. It stated that it understood the challenges of huge migratory pressures, the complexity of the issue, and the need to address its humanitarian dimension by promoting international and regional cooperation, solidarity and shared responsibility. Greece supported Italy's commitment to promoting a debate at European level on countering trafficking in human beings.

407. The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed Italy's acceptance of a number of recommendations, including four recommendations made by its government. It looked forwards to hearing about the action taken to implement the accepted recommendations. It urged Italy to address: racial discrimination; discriminatory treatment against migrants and victims of human trafficking; discrimination against immigrants and foreigners; and violence against women.

408. Kuwait welcomed the legislative role played by the Italian Parliament in discussing how to implement an independent national human rights commission in accordance with the Paris Principles. It thanked Italy for the importance attached to the initiative "The Foundations of the Italian Action Plan on the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights," submitted to the European Commission.

409. Libya commended the effective participation of Italy in the UPR 2nd cycle and appreciated the efforts exerted by Italy in promoting and protecting human rights in all perspectives. Libya thanked Italy for taking great steps of accepting 176 recommendations, which was a great evidence to prove that Italy was fully committed to protection and promotion of human rights.

410. The Philippines welcomed measures aimed at countering discrimination and addressing violence against women. It commended the efforts to protect the rights of migrants and combat human trafficking. It encouraged Italy to ensure that its domestic regulations on irregular migrants were always consistent with international human rights standards. It appreciated Italy's acceptance of its recommendation to periodically assess the migration policies. It reiterated its desire for Italy to consider acceding to ICRMW.

411. Sierra Leone thanked Italy for their constructive engagement with the UPR mechanism and for their presentation of the human rights situation in Italy. Italy encouraged Italy to provide further information as regards any efforts which it was considering with regard to countering racism and eliminating violence against women.

412. The Sudan commended the acceptance of most of the recommendations presented during the interactive dialogue in October 2014 and appreciated steps taken to promote and protect human rights of its citizens. It also thanked Italy for accepting the two recommendations presented by the Sudan. It wished Italy all the success in their efforts in implementing the accepted recommendations.

### **3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders**

413. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Italy, 8 other stakeholders made statements.

414. International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development - VIDES, on behalf of a NGO coalition, welcomed Italy's support to a significant number of recommendations. It urged Italy to pay special attention to the integration of children with disabilities, Roma children and unaccompanied foreign minors into the formal education system. As for trafficking in children and women, it stressed that the number of identified trafficked or exploited victims, especially undocumented migrants, had progressively

increased. It called on Italy to promptly adopt effective measures to address this pressing issue. Referring to violence against women and their discrimination in various contexts, including the workplace, it urged Italy to eradicate multiple forms of discrimination against women and take measures to combat unemployment and underemployment, especially with regard to young people and women.

415. Federative van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit – COC Nederland, on behalf of a NGO coalition, welcomed Italy's acceptance of all recommendations on the human rights of LGBT persons. However, it underlined that they could not be considered implemented. One of the recommendations mentioned marriage equality but there were only two bills sitting at the Senate and there was no discussion scheduled. As for the recognition of same-sex relationships in the form of civil partnership, there was only a bill under discussion in the Justice Commission of the Senate, with no guarantee of its adoption. As for legislative actions to combat discrimination on the basis of sex and sexual orientation, there was a highly controversial bill voted by the Low Chamber but criticized by NGOs, on the ground that an exception to the ban was recognized. It urged Italy to entirely implement the recommendations and to increase resources to fight discrimination.

416. Save the Children International recommended that Italy approve the bill of law pending before Parliament and ratify the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It noted that, in 2014, 170,000 migrants had arrived in Italy by sea, including over 13,000 accompanied children and 13,000 unaccompanied children. It recommended that Italy approve the Bill of law AC. 1658 in the shortest time possible to put in place a national system for the reception and protection of unaccompanied foreign minors. It also recommended that Italy introduce the necessary legislative reforms to explicitly ban all forms of corporal punishment and other humiliating and degrading forms of behaviour towards children, also in the home.

417. Franciscans International regretted that no recommendation had been made on environmental and human rights abuses caused by business activities. Italy had been marked by alarming environmental scandals, however, no mention had been made on the environmental disaster involving ILVA, Europe's largest steel plant, blamed of causing environmental disasters and serious health damages to local people, as well as the Eternit case, involving the deaths of hundreds of workers by asbestos poisoning. It welcomed the recent set of norms that created new crimes on environmental pollution and disasters. It called on Italy to ensure that this Bill would be translated into concrete measures leading to greater protection for workers and for people, to effective remedies and to the punishment of environmental crimes.

418. Amnesty International welcomed the recommendations on refugees and migrants and called on Italy to implement them urgently. It informed that shortly after the UPR of Italy in October 2014, Italy had ended Operation Mare Nostrum and that it had repeatedly called on Italy – as well as on EU institutions and EU Member States – to ensure that a search-and-rescue operation of at least a comparable scale and mandate be urgently put in place. It also remained deeply concerned about violations of the rights of Roma and urged Italy to implement the recommendations on Roma rights. It also urged Italy to implement the numerous recommendations to introduce the crime of torture in accordance with CAT and to create a National Human Rights Institution based on the Paris Principles.

419. Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII encouraged Italy to pay particular attention to the protection of the child from conception. It recommended Italy, among others, to elaborate a national plan with uniform guidelines to promote and protect the right to life of the soon-to-be born child; put in place all necessary actions to promote anonymous childbirth as an extreme alternative to abortion; and adopt specific legal and economic means in favour of pregnant women in a quandary. On the child's right to a



family, it recommended Italy to fully apply national standards for foster care; create a database of children with disabilities who could be adopted and ensure support to families willing to adopt or foster them; and fully recognize family associations during the whole process of the foster care project.

420. Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme noted reforms concerning the draft law related to the crime of torture, establishment of a National Human Rights Commission, repeal of the status of illegal migrants from the list of aggravating circumstances, and the establishment of the National Office against Racial Discrimination (UNAR). It commended Italy's efforts in the Mare Nostrum operation and asked involvement of countries of origin, transit and destination in the management of the migratory flow. It remained, however, concerned about discrimination against migrants and minorities, such as Roma, Sinti and Camminanti. It called upon Italy to earmark sufficient resources to the UNAR and the National Human Rights Commission and to ratify ICRMW.

421. World Evangelical Alliance noted Italy's renewal of commitment to counter all forms of religious discrimination. However, it regretted that some religious minorities faced restrictions and discrimination. In Lombardia, a regional law on territorial planning imposed disproportionately burdensome measures for the construction of places of worship for non-Catholic communities. Existing places of worship were also submitted to requirements that de facto made most of them illegal in that region. These provisions had been used by local authorities to target minority groups, in particular Muslim communities and Evangelical migrant churches. It hoped that, in the process of implementing its UPR commitments, adequate measures would be taken to remedy to this situation.

#### **4. Concluding remarks of the State under review**

422. The President stated that, based on the information provided, out of 186 recommendations received, 176 enjoy the support of Italy, and 10 are noted.

423. In conclusion, the Ambassador expressed appreciation for all the comments made. He indicated that they would be taken into proper consideration by the Italian authorities. He stated that that was a demonstration of a beneficial effect of the UPR process on all Member States.

424. The Minister stated that Italy would undergo the mid-term review of the implementation of the recommendations accepted and noted in the UPR 2nd cycle. In this engagement, Italy would continue close consultation, as in the past years, with civil society and NGOs, with regard to the issues raised in the UPR and also beyond.

#### **El Salvador**

425. The review of El Salvador was held on 27 October 2014 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by El Salvador in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/SLV/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/SLV/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/SLV/3).

426. At its 37<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 18 March 2015, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of El Salvador (see section C below).

427. The outcome of the review of El Salvador comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/28/5), the views of El Salvador concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (*see also A/HRC/28/5/Add.1*).

**1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome**

428. The Delegation recalled that the Government participated in its second review with openness because it recognized the importance of the UPR as a mechanism of dialogue among peers regarding the challenges to be overcome to guarantee the full enjoyment of human rights.

429. Many of the 159 recommendations received by El Salvador, added the delegation, requested the continuance of efforts or actions already undertaken in various areas, particularly the protection of vulnerable groups and the development of a social agenda that El Salvador was already carrying out as part of a commitment of the Administration with its population.

430. During the UPR Working Group the delegation, with the valuable support of the troika members, preliminarily examined the recommendations received and was in a position to accept 97 of them. Many of these recommendations were already implemented or in the process of being implemented at the time of the review.

431. The remaining 62 recommendations were submitted to a process of internal consultation among various Governmental institutions. As a result, El Salvador had submitted an explanatory addendum, with details on the position vis-à-vis each pending recommendation. Regarding recommendations 105.59 and 105.60, not explicitly mentioned in the addendum, the delegation clarified that the Government noted them in the same logic as those recommendations mentioned in paragraph 20 of said document.

432. The delegation stressed that, in the addendum, the Government committed to continue promoting a national discussion concerning the signature and ratification of international instruments, subject to the procedure established by the Constitution.

433. Also, El Salvador pledged to continue working in reducing inequalities and disparities, especially among vulnerable groups, for which the Government already had developed strategies promoting policies of inclusion and equal opportunities. The delegation mentioned, as an example, the Law on Development and Social Protection, which established a National System for Development, Protection and Social Inclusion that would be a means to implement many of the recommendations received.

434. The delegation acknowledged the value of the recommendations and the cooperative spirit with which each State put them forward. It also stressed the participation of the Salvadoran civil society and of the Office of the Human Rights Advocate in the review and added that these organizations played an important role in the promotion and advancement of human rights in El Salvador.

435. For countries such as El Salvador, who lived the consolidation of representative democracy and the rule of law as a conquest, the establishment of human rights as a cornerstone of the State's action was a priority.

436. The Government was aware that the implementation of many recommendations would be challenging and would require dialogue, consensus building and agreements between different sectors and actors. This was possible in El Salvador because during the past five years the Administration had established the foundations of a new form of

government more democratic, inclusive, participatory, and transparent, that would ensure full respect for human rights.

437. This was reflected in the Five Year Development Plan 2014-2019 which, after extensive public consultation, would guide the building process of a more productive, educated and safe El Salvador that should offer better living opportunities to its population.

438. The delegation offered to inform periodically on the implementation of the received recommendations and considered that the report of the Working Group would also become an important guiding tool for the Government's actions in the next four years.

439. The delegation concluded by recalling that El Salvador faced challenges, such as the situation of migrant boys and girls, that required additional joint efforts and appealed to the support and solidarity of the international community. That is why the delegation had delivered before the Human Rights Council a joint statement on "Unaccompanied Migrant Boys and Girls and Human Rights" with the sponsorship of 27 countries. The delegation noted the need to continue the dialogue on this issue until the Council adopts a resolution with the support of all Member States.

## **2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

440. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of El Salvador, 11 delegations made statements.

441. Cuba thanked El Salvador for having accepted the two recommendations it made, related to improving the standard of living of the population, the rights of children and women, and the right to health of the entire population. Cuba congratulated the Government on the progress made in human rights and highlighted progress in the area of health, which had allowed the expansion of coverage in primary care. The results of the review reaffirmed the commitment of the Salvadoran Government with the UPR.

442. Ecuador acknowledged the commitment of El Salvador with the UPR, as a mechanism that promoted the protection of human rights at the national and international levels. It welcomed the efforts of the State under review to share its good practices and challenges in protecting vulnerable groups during the twentieth session of the Working Group that took place in October 2014. It highlighted that many delegations complimented, then, the Salvadoran initiatives to promote social inclusion and the participation of the population in different areas related to its welfare.

443. Kuwait commended the endeavours of El Salvador towards the implementation of the recommendations advanced during the review and the tangible developments achieved since its first UPR. It praised El Salvador's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, being a cornerstone of its national plans and public policy. Kuwait valued the Government's endeavours towards realizing key structural reforms and working on developing and improving the living standards of different categories of the society. It also acknowledged the reform of the national health system aimed at providing comprehensive primary health care by directly cooperating with community organizations.

444. Nicaragua congratulated El Salvador for having accepted most of the recommendations received and the commitment shown to continue working on the promotion and protection of human rights. Nicaragua highlighted the achievements in the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities, combating violence against women and the restoration of human rights of indigenous peoples. Nicaragua encouraged El Salvador to continue to play a leadership role as a member of the Council regarding issues of relevance to the Central American countries, such as the protection and promotion of unaccompanied migrant children.

445. The Philippines appreciated El Salvador's acceptance of its recommendation on the implementation of anti-trafficking laws and programs. It expressed support for El Salvador's efforts to harmonize domestic laws with international human rights standards and noted the work to improve public awareness on the dangers of cross border migration of unaccompanied minors. The Philippines was confident that El Salvador would work with its partners to develop responses addressing the root causes of this migration, and find effective solutions more accessible to victims of trafficking. It noted that the fight against poverty and social exclusion remained priorities. The Philippines stated that the engagement of the international community would facilitate El Salvador's efforts to meet its international human rights obligations and implement recommendations.

446. Sierra Leone commended El Salvador for their commitment to promoting human rights and for their cooperation and participation during the second cycle of the UPR. It was pleased to note that several of its recommendations enjoyed the support of El Salvador. Sierra Leone commended El Salvador's efforts to implement measures and policies which would further promote the rights of children, and consequently, integrate related recommendations and proposals into national instruments.

447. Sri Lanka noted that its recommendations enjoyed El Salvador's support, and encouraged the continuation of ongoing efforts in strengthening institutional and legislative measures to guarantee the rights of vulnerable groups, including the rights of indigenous peoples. It commended the importance given by the Government to protecting the rights of El Salvador's migrant workers. Sri Lanka also stated that the establishment of the "National Council for Citizen Security and Coexistence" to ensure public security and peaceful co-existence was a praiseworthy initiative.

448. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela recognized the great importance El Salvador gave to the compliance with the accepted UPR recommendations. The review showed the efforts and achievements of the Government on the enjoyment of human rights of the Salvadoran population. Venezuela highlighted the successful continuation of the "Caring Communities" for comprehensive care of families in need, and the anticipated achievement of the MDG in the area of reducing maternal mortality. The transparent participation of El Salvador in the review process was a positive development which showed the Government's commitment to the full realization of the fundamental rights of its people.

449. The Plurinational State of Bolivia congratulated El Salvador for its achievements in the area of human rights. Bolivia stressed that the second cycle showed the effort and progress achieved by El Salvador, particularly in protecting and promoting the rights of children, women, indigenous peoples, the elderly and persons with disabilities. The recommendations accepted by the Government were a sign of its commitment to its people and to the progressive development of human rights.

450. China appreciated that El Salvador had taken an active and constructive part in the second UPR, accepting most recommendations. It stated that, in particular, El Salvador had firmly pledged to continue to promote policies to protect and support women, to strive to eliminate violence against women and children, and to ensure that all children from urban or rural areas enjoy equal opportunities to education as well as to pursue poverty a alleviation strategy.

451. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed El Salvador's interest in the recommendations it received and the support of those which were accepted. It remained convinced that the implementation of those recommendations would effectively contribute to the strengthening of measures for the achievement of the full enjoyment of human rights. Côte d'Ivoire encouraged the Government to guarantee the rule of law as well as the enjoyment of civil and political rights for all citizens. It also encouraged El Salvador to consolidate its efforts for social development, the strengthening of public safety, the protection of children, the

elderly and vulnerable categories. It requested that El Salvador continue its cooperation with the international community.

### **3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders**

452. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of El Salvador, 8 other stakeholders made statements.

453. The Office of the Human Rights Advocate acknowledged the importance of the UPR to monitor the human rights situation faced by all members of the United Nations and, in this case, to understand the serious challenges and violations that occur in El Salvador. The Office contributed to the UPR with a report it submitted for the summary of stakeholders. El Salvador had received 159 recommendations that showed concern for the many severe human rights problems affecting El Salvador. 62 of those recommendations were the subject of internal consultations. The Human Rights Advocate had recommended the Government to accept all the recommendations it received, particularly those aimed at solving the biggest human rights challenges faced by El Salvador. He also urged the Government to strictly comply with its human rights obligations.

454. The Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco and International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development noted the vulnerability of the rights of children and young persons living or working on the street. Thus, they welcomed the acceptance of recommendations 103.23, 24 and 31, and underlined the importance of their rapid and effective implementation. They acknowledged that in the past four years the Government had offered basic protection of this vulnerable group through the Institute for Children and Adolescents but noted that this only worked in the capital and during the day. They regretted the lack of comprehensive and multidisciplinary studies on the above mentioned phenomenon and recommended that the Government ensure data collection and exchange of information at national level on children working or living on the street. Finally, they expressed concern about the situation of those young persons living or working in the street that when becoming adults no longer received assistance from any institution.

455. The Centre for Reproductive Rights referred to the law that criminalized abortion without exception and stated that El Salvador had one of the world's most extreme abortion bans. It referred to 17 women sentenced with up to 40 years in prison for pregnancies ending due to natural causes, and the pardon of "Guadalupe", a rape survivor imprisoned for homicide after a pregnancy-related complication. The Centre also noted that six UN human rights experts urged El Salvador to pardon all women jailed for pregnancy complications and repeal the abortion law. It added that 15 women were still wrongfully in prison. It requested the Government to: amend laws imposing a total abortion ban; prevent women seeking emergency obstetric care from being reported to the authorities; stop the prosecution of women on charges of abortion until the legislation is amended; ensure that judicial investigations and prosecutions adhere to the tenets of due process; and release the 15 women wrongfully imprisoned.

456. International Educational Development Inc. noted that the Government took office shortly before the UPR, and thus many of the documents did not reflect the current situation. It welcomed the new status of indigenous peoples and the establishment of the sign language as an official language. It stated that in spite of progress in ratifications and implementations of human rights documents, El Salvador had significant problems relating to the marginalization of civil society and the power of gangs. In this regard, it noted that the threats to young people had resulted in the flight of unaccompanied youths to the United States where many were detained in camps. Resolving this problem would require the concerted efforts of the governments concerned and the High Commissioner for Refugees.

457. Amnesty International stated that El Salvador had one of the world's most draconian abortion laws, criminalising abortion on all grounds. It referred to the case of Guadalupe, sentenced to 30 years in jail for aggravated homicide after having suffered a miscarriage when she was 18, product of a pregnancy that followed a rape. It welcomed her release, urging authorities to review the sentences against all women imprisoned for pregnancy-related complications. Amnesty International referred to 14 UPR recommendations on sexual and reproductive rights, and welcomed El Salvador's acceptance of two recommendations on access to sexual and reproductive health services. It expressed disappointment that the Government noted 10 recommendations to decriminalise abortion and remove the ban on it. It also acknowledged that the delegation had orally noted two recommendations to release all women imprisoned for having undergone an abortion or suffered a miscarriage, and urged the Government to set those women free.

458. Action Canada for Population and Development welcomed El Salvador's acceptance of recommendation 103.9 on the protection of women who were victims of discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender condition. It urged the Government to collaborate with local NGOs in its implementation. It also welcomed El Salvador's willingness to take action on recommendations 105.32 through 36 on LGBTI persons, and urged the Government to adopt a Gender Identity Law allowing transgender persons to change their identity documents. Action Canada welcomed the Government's acceptance of recommendations 105.61 and 62 on sexual and reproductive health services but was disappointed that it did not accept recommendations 105.49 through 58 on abortion law reform. It noted that El Salvador had not provided written responses to recommendations 105.59 and 60 and urged it to immediately release all women and girls in prison for undergoing abortion.

459. Europe Third World Centre welcomed recommendation 103.39 on the human right to water and urged the Government to recognize this right before April 30, 2015, through amendments to Article 69 of the Constitution. It acknowledged the positive role played by the Government to prevent environmental degradation and water pollution by not granting mining permits and mentioned the case of the Australian company Oceana Gold which had insisted on its will to initiate a mining project that would adversely affect the population and water sources, by contesting the sovereign decision of the Government through international arbitration tribunals like ICSID. It encouraged the Government to keep strong in its opposition to such projects. It concluded by requesting the Government to continue guaranteeing the safety of human rights defenders and local people, and to investigate crimes against environmentalists.

460. The International Lesbian and Gay Association acknowledged that the Government had made some progress in the area of social inclusion of LGBTI persons and had delivered statements to eradicate exclusion, discrimination and violence due to the non-heterosexual orientation and transsexual gender identity. However, the LGBTI population remained the victim of hate crimes. Only in March 2015 four trans women were killed and allegations, statistics and reports showed that violence and exclusion of LGBTI persons continued to grow. ILGA hoped that the Legislative Assembly would adopt the Law on Identity, criminalize hate crimes in the criminal procedure and penal codes, and define policies to eradicate exclusion on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. ILGA thanked those delegations that made recommendations on the human rights of LGBTI persons and added that it hoped that the Government would go beyond the mere acceptance of these recommendations and would fully implement them.

#### **4. Concluding remarks of the State under review**

461. The President stated that based on the information provided out of 159 recommendations received, 117 enjoy the support of El Salvador and 42 are noted.

462. The delegation reiterated its appreciation to the States that expressed their support, which reinforced El Salvador's commitment to effective implementation of the UPR recommendations. This support was, as well, an additional incentive that contributed to ensure greater observance of human rights in El Salvador.

463. The delegation also recalled that the Government had a constructive attitude toward all the recommendations it received and renewed its engagement to inform the Council on the progress and difficulties encountered in implementing them.

464. In conclusion, the delegation stated that, as a member of the Council, it was committed to carry out every effort to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights in El Salvador.

### **The Gambia**

465. The review of the Gambia was held on 28 October 2014 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by the Gambia in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/GMB/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/GMB/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/GMB/3).

466. At its 54th meeting, on 26 March 2015, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of the Gambia (see section C below).

467. The outcome of the review of the Gambia comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/28/6), the views of the Gambia concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/28/6/Add.1).

468. On 26 March, the Vice-President stated that the adoption of the UPR outcome of the Gambia had been initially scheduled to take place on 18 March. He explained that such an adoption could take place only if the State had indicated a clear position on all recommendations made during its review in the Working Group and indicated that on 18 March, no position on the recommendations had been communicated by the Gambia. The Vice-President added that contacts had been maintained with the Gambia to ensure that such a position was communicated during the current session of the Council and the authorities had been made aware of the importance of adhering to the established calendar for the adoption of outcomes at the corresponding sessions of the Human Rights Council.

469. The Vice-President noted that on 18 March, the Council had agreed to postpone to 26 March the adoption of the outcome of the Gambia to give additional time to the Gambian authorities to submit their position on all the recommendations made during their review. He indicated that on 24 March, the Gambia had eventually provided its position and views on the recommendations in writing which could be found in the addendum to the report of the UPR working group, as well as in an additional informal document. Finally, the Vice-President said that the adoption of the outcome of the Gambia would take place without the participation of a representative of the State and on the basis of the information provided in writing.

**1. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

470. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of the Gambia, 12 delegations made statements.

471. Kuwait commended the Gambia for the progress made in order to strengthen and protect the human rights. It welcomed the efforts carried out to promote the human rights in many areas, in particular in education and health, for the welfare of the people. Kuwait also commended the Gambia for its efforts in establishing a national human rights institution in conformity with the international standards.

472. Libya appreciated the openness of the Gambia during its UPR and its acceptance of most of the recommendations, which confirmed the Gambia's collaboration and commitment to strengthen the human rights in the country.

473. Sierra Leone commended the Gambia for its efforts to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. Noting with concern that all the recommendations presented during its UPR had not enjoyed the support of the Gambia, Sierra Leone urged the Government to adopt these recommendations with a view to incorporating them into the national legislation. It also encouraged the Gambia to modify its legislation by raising the legal age of marriage to 18 in order to offer better protection to girls from harmful practices, including child marriages.

474. Togo noted the recommendations accepted by the Gambia and encouraged it to continue its efforts for the welfare of the people. It invited the international community to lend its support to the Gambia for the implementation of the accepted recommendations.

475. While recognising the steps taken to implement some recommendations from the last UPR in relation to the rights of women and children, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland called on the Gambian Government to implement all the recommendations of the first and second cycles. Regretting that the authorities did not adhere to their own written agreement to allow unhindered access to the UN Special Rapporteurs on torture and extrajudicial executions during their visit in the country, it called on the Government to engage cooperatively with both mandate holders and to ensure that there will be no reprisals against individuals who cooperated with the Rapporteurs. It also strongly urged the Gambia to strive towards non-discrimination against all and set aside the 2014 Aggravated Homosexuality Bill. Finally, it was concerned about the unlawful detention of individuals following the events of 30 December and held the Government to its commitment that any of those suspected of involvement in the coup would receive a fair trial.

476. The United States of America were deeply concerned by human rights in the Gambia and supported recommendations to investigate torture allegations and to protect freedom of expression. It urged the Government to give access to and cooperate with the UN Special Procedures. It also mentioned reports stating that the Gambian Government had held individuals incommunicado whom it believed had been involved in or had information about the failed coup attempt. Noting that the authorities had also targeted individuals because of their perceived sexual orientation or gender identity and had enacted legislation for the so-called crime of "aggravated homosexuality", it called on the Government to defend and protect the human rights of all Gambians, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Finally, it reiterated its call for the Gambia to investigate reported and alleged forced disappearances, including the disappearance of the US citizen Alhaji Ceesay and Ebrima Jobe and the disappearance of Gambian journalist Ebrima Manneh.

477. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted that under the Education for All initiatives, the Gambia was among the first countries in Africa to achieve the MDGs for



free enrollment in primary education, and gender equality. It expressed its appreciation for the progress made by the Gambia in implementing the recommendations accepted during the first cycle of the UPR, and appreciated its will to achieve that objective.

478. Botswana commended efforts made by the Gambia in creating awareness on the dangers of child sexual abuse and exploitation as well as efforts to increase public awareness campaigns to educate people on the effects of female genital mutilation. It encouraged the Gambia to continue to address the issues of child marriage, maternal and infant mortality, human trafficking and the enjoyment of civil and political rights. Botswana noted with appreciation measures taken to reduce poverty and policies and strategies such as the Vision 2020 and the Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment (PAGE).

479. China appreciated the acceptance by the Gambia of a large number of recommendations especially its commitment to realise and promote the economic, social and cultural rights, including rights to development, for its people. China hoped that the Gambia would continue to develop its economy, increase employment, enhance poverty elimination and improve people's living standards. It stated that as a developing country, the Gambia faced many challenges in promoting social and economic development and in protecting human rights. China hoped that the international community would provide a constructive assistance to the Gambia, while respecting its will, including by providing support in its engagement with UPR.

480. Cuba reiterated its appreciation to the Gambia for the important steps taken in the field of human rights. It highlighted in particular, the educational reforms that had been initiated. Furthermore, the Gambia has taken important actions that have allowed improving the rights of people with disabilities, the conditions of detention and the fight against human trafficking. Cuba urged the international community to strengthen its cooperation and financial assistance to the Gambia on issues selected by the country.

481. Ghana welcomed the steps taken by the Gambia to ensure the enjoyment of basic human rights by its people as well as the efforts made to ensure increased enrolment in schools and the development of early childhood education centres. It encouraged the Gambia to channel this same effort in the fight against female genital mutilation and to take all necessary measures, including legislation, to reduce the rather high incidence of the practice in the country. Ghana called on the international community to assist the Gambia to sensitise its people against the ills of FGM and to provide it with the needed technical assistance in this regard. Ghana also encouraged the Gambia to consider favourably the recommendations made during the UPR on ratifying the human rights instruments that it was not party to as well as the recommendations that would enhance the lives of the people.

482. Sudan appreciated that the Gambia had accepted most of the UPR recommendations and thanked it for its acceptance of the two recommendations presented by Sudan. It also wished all success to the Gambian Government and people in their efforts to implement the accepted recommendations.

## **2. General comments made by relevant stakeholders**

483. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of the Gambia, 4 stakeholders made statements.

484. Article 19 and the International Federation for Human Rights League (FIDH) welcomed the recommendations made by States on the protection of human rights defenders, improvement of the human rights of LGBTI persons, abolishment of death penalty, decriminalization of defamation and the need to review Gambian Criminal Code with regard to the false information. They called upon the Gambia to put an end to the persecution of LGBTI individuals pointing out at the recent developments when dozens of

LGBTI persons were detained and subjected to torture. Article 19 and FIDH urged the Gambia to facilitate visits of the UN Special Procedures and allow them unimpeded access. Noting with regret the lack of progress in the area of the human rights, they called on the Member States to set up a mechanism for monitoring the human rights situation in the Gambia.

485. Amnesty International (AI) highlighted the further deterioration of the human rights situation in the Gambia. Mentioning that after the failed alleged coup in December 2014, at least 30 persons had been held incommunicado detention without charge, AI called upon the Government to comply with the African Commission resolution to invite a fact-finding mission to the country. Recalling that several States had urged to facilitate visits requested by the Special Rapporteurs on torture and extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions, AI stated that during their last visit to the Gambia in November 2014, the Government had denied them unrestricted access to prisons. Based on frequent reports on torture against human rights defenders, journalists and political opponents, AI urged the Gambia to investigate all complaints regarding torture and ill-treatment and expressed its disappointment that authorities did not accept recommendations to ratify the CAT. It also expressed its concern that the Gambia had accepted recommendations to guarantee freedom of expression only subject to its restrictive laws. AI stated that prior to the UPR, it had raised concern about the risk of reprisals against Gambian citizens seeking to engage with the review. Noting that during the visit by the Special Rapporteurs, many individuals interviewed by them had expressed fear of reprisal, AI urged the Council to follow closely this situation so that Gambians could safely engage with the UN human rights mechanisms without fear of reprisals. It noted with regret that even harsher sentences had been introduced for LGBTI persons despite numerous recommendations on decriminalizing same-sex relation. Finally, AI exhorted the Council to pay more sustained attention to the situation in the Gambia due to the large scale of human rights violations.

486. CIVICUS commended the acceptance of the recommendations with a view to protect and promote freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. However, it was disappointed that the Gambian Government had rejected the recommendations to amend the legislation to remove restrictions on freedom of expression which had a major impact on human rights defenders and journalists. It also raised concern with regard to the ongoing persecution and detention of civil society activists and dissenters as well as violations and restrictions on civil liberties, intimidation of journalists and regular suspensions on media outlets. CIVICUS reiterated its calls to the Gambia on taking the measures to guarantee the full respect of freedom of expression and press. It also called on the Government to abolish all legislative provisions restricting the freedom of expression and to create an enabling environment to enhance the work of human rights defenders, journalists and civil society representatives. Finally, CIVICUS called on the Gambia to extend a standing invitation to all Special Procedures; to improve cooperation with OHCHR and to fully implement the accepted recommendations.

487. Rencontre africaine pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (RADHO) welcomed the efforts made by the Gambia in the field of education and the fight against illiteracy. These efforts have allowed the Gambia to be among the African countries that have achieved the MDGs in the education sector. However, RADHO regretted that the majority of the recommendations from the UPR first cycle had not been implemented. It stated that the situation of human rights had deteriorated dramatically in recent years because of assassination attempts, intimidation and harassment exercised by the intelligence services and security forces against opponents, trade unions, journalists and defenders of human rights. Moreover, RADDHO was concerned about the fate of those accused of attempted coup d'état against the Gambian President in December 2014. It stated that the alleged perpetrators had been tortured by the presidential guards and that the fate of people had been unknown, since Gambia reinstated the death penalty in 2012. Given the gravity of the

situation in the Gambia, RADDHO requested the transfer of the headquarters of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights from Banjul to an African country that respects human rights. Finally, RADDHO invited the Gambia to fight against human trafficking and sexual tourism as well as to cooperate with the Special Procedures mandate holders.

### **3. Concluding remarks of the State under review**

488. The President stated that based on the information provided by the Gambian authorities in the addendum to their report, out of 171 recommendations received, 93 enjoy the support of the Gambia while 78 are noted.

#### **Plurinational State of Bolivia**

48. The review of the Plurinational State of Bolivia was held on 28 October 2014 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/BOL/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/BOL/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/BOL/3).

490. At its 38th meeting, on 18 March 2015, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of the Plurinational State of Bolivia (see section C below).

491. The outcome of the review of the Plurinational State of Bolivia comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/28/7), the views of the Plurinational State of Bolivia concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (*see also A/HRC/28/7/Add.1*).

### **1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome**

492. In her introductory remarks, Her Excellency Ambassador Angelica Navarro, Permanent Representative of Bolivia to the United Nations in Geneva, noted that it Bolivia had submitted its national report to the universal periodic review mechanism, which was prepared in consultation with organizations of the civil society. Bolivia had shared information on progress made as well as on challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights. She noted that the Government of Bolivia was firmly committed to meet all its international human rights obligations.

493. During the universal periodic review working group session, in October 2014, Bolivia supported 178 recommendations and took note of 15 recommendations which Bolivia considered that the recommendations were not updated, and did not reflect their reality.

494. Bolivia informed that it had already initiated the holding of inter-ministerial meetings to share the report of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group and to promote the integration of supported recommendations in the annual operative programmes, in accordance with the different mandates of the ministries. Bolivia will also

organize meetings with other Branches of the State with the same objective. Bolivia is also working on an institutional process for the implementation of recommendations and the elaboration of progress reports.

495. Bolivia provided information on progress made with regard to recommendations which are already in the process of implementation in areas such as political participation of women, social protection policies, the right to housing, citizen's security, additional measures to combat violence against women, participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making and in the administration of justice.

496. The general elections held in October 2014, which resulted in the re-election of the President with more than 61% of votes, will allow for the consolidation of the democratic and cultural revolution which aims at achieving the "Vivir bien" "Good Living well" for all the people. One of the most important gains has also been the increase in the political participation of women in the new Legislative Assembly.

497. During the last year, the coverage of the conditioned transfer programmes benefitting vulnerable sectors of the population was extended to students of sixth grade of secondary level and an additional bonus for elderly persons was paid. A new incentive bonus to recognize excellence for secondary students has also been created. Bolivia further continued making progress in the implementation of the programme to provide laptops to students.

498. In order to strengthen the participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making, an international Parliamentary meeting was held in 2014 in view of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

499. Bolivia continued working to improve access to justice and to ensure concrete changes, a National Judicial Meeting will be held this year.

500. Bolivia further indicated that the human rights public policy and the 2015-2020 Human Rights Action Plan had been approved by the National Human Rights Council. The process for its implementation by all State institutions, as well as the municipal and departmental governments was currently ongoing. The Plan of Action included all recommendations received from treaty bodies of international instruments ratified by Bolivia, as well as the recommendations from the universal periodic review.

501. The Children and Adolescents Code approved in 2014 is being implemented to guarantee children their full and effective enjoyment of human rights, for their development keeping the best interest of the child as a guiding principle.

502. Regarding the right to health, Bolivia continued implementing the National Strategic Plan on Sexual and Reproductive Health 2009-2015.

503. In November 2014, the Families Code and the Family Procedures was promulgated. The social rights of families was strengthened with due respect for diversity.

504. The implementation of the law to address overcrowding in prisons and the effectiveness of the penal procedure system which was adopted in 2014, has also been initiated. The law aims at expediting cases. It also establishes new options to end preventive detention.

505. The work of the inter-institutional Commissions, to feed updated data for the human rights indicators developed by the National Statistics Institute, such as on the right to work, access to justice, to food, to health, to drinking water, to education to housing, on non-violence against women and to eradicate trafficking, continued.

506. Bolivia reiterated that it was fully committed with human rights, as recognized in the Constitution and in the international human rights conventions to which it is a Party to, and

which were being implemented, with the full participation of the civil society, in accordance with the 2025 Agenda.

**2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

507. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, 17 delegations made statements.

508. The Philippines welcomed laws, policies and programs addressing discrimination and violence notably against women and children. The Philippines recognised Bolivia's leadership in the development of international human rights norms pertaining to the rights of peasants and the protection of indigenous peoples and communities. It hoped that Bolivia will continue improving its protection mechanisms for migrants and consider establishing return programmes for migrants as ways to bridge social protection policy gaps.

509. The Russian Federation noted that Bolivia supported most of the recommendations, demonstrating commitment to the promotion and protection of the human rights and readiness for further cooperation with the international mechanisms. It emphasized progress made in the area of the human rights protection, particularly, in the areas of social and economic rights.

510. Sierra Leone noted that all its recommendations were supported. It applauded efforts to address various gender-related issues and encouraged efforts in comprehensively tackling violence and sexual abuse of girls.

511. Sri Lanka was pleased that its recommendations were supported. It commended the efforts in promoting and protecting socio-economic rights especially in the areas of health, education, agriculture and gender equality. It noted the increased budget allocations for health and the inter-sectoral and intercultural approach based on universality, equality and access to services. Measures taken to exchange and use indigenous knowledge and strengthen this group's capacity were recognized.

512. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela commended Bolivia for its achievements, in particular in the area of economic, social and cultural rights and encouraged it to continue consolidating its social protection system. It welcomed that Bolivia had achieved the Millennium Development Goal in the area of extreme poverty.

513. Algeria commended Bolivia's support of most recommendations. It welcomed the ongoing efforts in the framework of the Plurinational Plan for newborns, children and teenagers 2014-2025. It welcomed as well the ongoing efforts in fighting against extreme poverty.

514. China noted that Bolivia had supported most recommendations, including its recommendations on the continuing importance of environment protection while achieving harmonious development between humans and nature, and continuing the comprehensive promotion of economic and social development in prioritizing poverty eradication and further improving living standards.

515. Cuba welcomed that Bolivia had accepted its two recommendations, on which it indicated that it had already implemented them or that were in the process of being implemented. Cuba noted that it will continue supporting Bolivia's efforts with a view to achieving the well-being of the people.

516. Ecuador commended Bolivia for their progress and commitment to address challenges. It welcomed that Bolivia had given visibility to efforts, achievements and challenges for the empowerment of the rights of women and their participation in different settings. It commended Bolivia for their commitment to fight poverty and discrimination.

517. El Salvador considered it important to highlight progress made by Bolivia in the promotion and protection of human rights with a social, inclusive and participative vision. It commended progress made in the areas of children, women and indigenous peoples. El Salvador encouraged Bolivia to continue their cooperation with the Special Procedures and the Human Rights Council.

518. India noted that 178 out of 193 recommendations were supported. It was pleased that its two recommendations on continued steps for enhancing access to justice and continued attention to women-and children- related issues were supported. India trusted that efforts will be further intensified to implement the supported recommendations in the coming years.

519. The Islamic Republic of Iran acknowledged that its recommendations were supported. It praised efforts in reducing extreme poverty as well as praised the launch of the Plan on Human Rights Education, the decision to launch a National Day against All Forms of Discrimination as well as the formulation of an action plan to eliminate racism and discriminatory practices.

520. Ireland appreciated that its two recommendations were accepted. It enquired about the progress in implementing accepted recommendations and encouraged Bolivia to submit a voluntary mid-term report. Ireland regretted that recommendations on the judicial process were not accepted despite a profound crisis in the administration of justice. Ireland urged to ensure that all killings are subject to impartial investigation and to strengthen and ensure the rule of law. It also urged that impunity not be tolerated.

521. Kuwait appreciated efforts to implement the recommendations and commended Bolivia for its efforts to improve education and health, as well as adopting an economic and social production model aiming at reducing extreme poverty. Kuwait valued efforts to address the challenges which hamper achieving the welfare of people and establishing a social democratic state, governed by the rule of law, while looking forward to ensure the protection of human rights through the adoption of national plans that guarantee a life with dignity and productivity.

522. Malaysia commended continuous efforts and progress made in promoting and protecting human rights of citizens including poverty eradication, labour and employment policies, children and women's rights and education. It was pleased that its recommendations to eradicate extreme poverty and providing fund to support the supply of drinking water programme had been accepted.

523. Nicaragua welcomed the report of Bolivia on the work already initiated to follow up on recommendations from the second review. It commended Bolivia for having supported most of the recommendations received and encouraged it to continue efforts in the areas of health, education, environment and the protection of children. It encouraged Bolivia to continue its leadership addressing in the Council the promotion and protection of the rights of peasants and indigenous peoples.

524. Pakistan acknowledged the efforts made to improve the socio-economic development in the country. It appreciated that most of the recommendations including Pakistan's recommendations were supported.

### **3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders**

525. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, 11 other stakeholders made statements.

526. The International Lesbian and Gay Association noted that since 2009, Bolivia has spoken about non-discrimination in the Constitution. There has also been a promulgation of laws and decrees in this regard. It welcomed that Bolivia had supported most

recommendations and indicated that the civil society will monitor their implementation. It regretted that the recommendation on the derogation of legislation which limits the rights of persons on the grounds of sexual identity was not supported. It urged the government to adopt provisions that guarantee the same rights for all society members.

527. The Indian Council of South America (CISA) referred to recommendation 113.46 of the UPR Working Group that refers to ensuring that legislation on consultation with indigenous groups is well-formed, and that it take into account indigenous peoples' concerns, and is effectively implemented, and expressed concern about the critical voices of CONAMAQ and CIDOB being silenced.

528. The Colombian Association of Jurists referred to supported recommendations on judicial independence. It however expressed concern about disciplinary and criminal proceedings brought by the Legislative Assembly against three judges in 2014. Noting that Bolivia had announced reforms of the judicial system in 2015, it asked if transferring responsibility for discipline and removal of procedures to a new independent impartial body with guarantees of fairness and defined grounds for removal that exclude disagreement with rulings will be considered. It also asked how Bolivia will ensure that reforms are consistent with universal and regional standards on the role and independence of the judiciary.

529. Franciscans International appreciated that Bolivia had supported most recommendation, but felt the need to stress that the work in some areas needs to be strengthened, such as in the area of violence against women and the restructuring of the judicial system to guaranteed right to a due process. It highlighted the importance of the participation and consultations with indigenous peoples.

530. Human Rights Watch continued to be concerned at the law governing the operation of civil society organizations, which prevents human rights defenders from working independently. Bolivia supported a number of recommendations regarding the judiciary. HRW hoped that judicial reform will strengthen independence of the judiciary in the country. There is a need however to ensure that crimes that constitute gross human rights violations are not judged within military courts. It regretted that Bolivia had not supported recommendations regarding the eradication of child labour. Human Rights Watch considered that there was a need for Bolivia to demonstrate a more firm commitment to implementing recommendations it had supported.

531. Amnesty International called on Bolivia to implement supported recommendations, in particular those considered as already implemented or in the process of being implemented, as many of them concern issues where more needs to be done. It reminded that Bolivia supported recommendations to end impunity and to strengthen efforts to create and independent truth commission. Noting that Bolivia had not supported all recommendations regarding structural problems within the judiciary namely delays, corruption and lack of capacity, AI called on Bolivia to reconsider its position and implement all recommendations to strengthen the judiciary.

532. Action Canada for Population and Development welcomed the support of recommendations on sexual and reproductive rights. It applauded acceptance of 113.31 calling on governments to revise penal laws criminalizing women and girls for seeking abortion and doctors accepting. It recommended that Bolivia revise its penal code and create legislation providing unrestricted access to safe, legal and affordable abortion services.

533. Europe-Third World Centre commended progress made by Bolivia in addressing economic, social and cultural rights, in particular in the area of extreme poverty, the right to health, food, water and education. It further recognized the role played by Bolivia at international level in the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights too.

534. United Nations Watch noted that Bolivia had supported the majority of recommendations. It however remained concerned that Bolivia may not be fully committed to implementing them. UN Watch was concerned that not enough is being done to eradicate underage employment. Referring to efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women, UN Watch noted that there are legal barriers that prevent the implementation of laws to protect women. It expressed support to recommendations to prevent prison overcrowding and to ensure protection from sexual abuse to children living in detention with their families.

535. International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) evoked UPR's missed opportunity to make recommendations on conscientious objectors to military service. Concerns expressed by the Human Rights Committee following the Third Periodic Report under the ICCPR regarding the lack of an alternative civilian service for conscientious objectors and its recommendation for legislative action were reminded. IFOR urged Bolivia to remedy the gap in the protection of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

536. The American Association of Jurists was impressed by the fundamental in the legislative, social and economic fields. It appreciated that nations and indigenous peoples, active and peasants had the right to implement their justice systems. It commended various efforts and encouraged Bolivia to pursue socio-economic policy improving living conditions. It recognized Bolivia's constructive engagement in the Council and its Special Procedures as well as welcomed the renewal of the collaboration agreement with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

#### **4. Concluding remarks of the State under review**

537. The President stated that based on the information provided out of 193 recommendations received, 178 enjoyed the support of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, while 15 were noted.

538. To conclude, Bolivia indicated that it will continue engaging and the ongoing dialogue with Bolivian civil society, with the aim of improving the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

539. To end, Bolivia thanked delegations for the constructive dialogue, as well as the Troika – Costa Rica, Pakistan and Benin- and the Secretariat, for their support during the Working Group.

#### **Fiji**

540. The review of Fiji was held on 29 October 2014 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Fiji in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/FJI/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/FJI/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/FJI/3).

541. At its 38th meeting, on 18 March 2015, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Fiji (see section C below).

542. The outcome of the review of Fiji comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/28/8), the views of Fiji concerning the



recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (*see also A/HRC/28/8/Add.1*).

**1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome**

543. The delegation recalled that in October 2014, Fiji announced its endorsement of 98 of the 138 recommendations made and that 12 of the 98 endorsed recommendations had already been implemented.

544. Fiji presented its Addendum to the Report of the Working Group which provided Fiji's position on the 40 recommendations that were left pending as it was necessary either to consult with the relevant independent institutions or refer the recommendations to the relevant Government agencies for their input and advice.

545. The delegation reiterated that Fiji's Constitution had for the first time created a comprehensive and very progressive Bill of Rights which allowed for the realization of socio-economic rights in addition to civil and political rights as human rights as well as recognizing and protecting the indigenous – the iTaukei and the Rotumans – their unique culture, tradition, customs, language and customary ownership of their land.

546. Fiji had set itself a time frame of 10 years within which it would endeavour to ratify all core human rights instruments. The delegation was pleased to announce that in March 2015 the Fijian Parliament approved the ratification of the Convention against Torture, with some reservations.

547. Fiji recalled that the Constitution established a Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission. Fiji reported that the Commissioners for that Commission were to be appointed through the Constitutional Officers Commission. Fiji stated that the Government had asked the NGO Coalition on Human Rights in Fiji to submit names for possible Commissioners and had requested OHCHR assistance to build capacity within the Fijian Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission and looked forward to such assistance.

548. Fiji stated that Government presented a bill to Parliament at its first sitting for 2015, and which was subsequently approved by Parliament, for the removal of all references to the death penalty in the Military laws. Thus, Fiji had completely abolished the death penalty from all its laws.

549. Addressing the recommendations on the establishment of a Constitutional Commission to conduct a review of the Constitution, Fiji reiterated its position that the Constitution was an expression of the will of the Fijian people and the Constitution itself stipulated a process whereby Parliamentary approval must be sought for a referendum to take place prior to any amendments being made to the Constitution.

550. Fiji was committed to inviting special procedure mandate holders and would endeavour to invite one mandate holder per year for key areas identified by the Government. The delegation referred to the Fijian Prime Minister's address to the High Level Segment of the 28th Session of the Human Rights Council where he invited the Special Rapporteurs on water and on education and stated that Fiji was looking forward to the assistance and benefit that this would bring.

551. Regarding the recommendation to ensure that the issue of violence against women be considered by the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission. Fiji stated that the Bainimarama Government had put in place a legislative framework for addressing violence against women. Those efforts included new legal provisions for the offence of

rape and sexual assault, the abolition of the law of corroboration and limited questioning on the complainant's sexual history.

552. Fiji reported that the Cabinet approved the national gender policy in 2014 and that Fiji's gender mainstreaming policy included gender competence training of the civil service, the police and the judiciary. The delegation noted that following the 2014 general elections, Fiji's Parliament had the highest percentage of women ever and the highest percentage in the Pacific.

553. Fiji reiterated the view that the effective implementation of its laws and policies also required the strong role of civil society in helping to shape attitudinal change. Fiji accepted that if violence against women was to be effectively dealt with, then patriarchy itself must be challenged and dismantled. In that regard, Fiji also encouraged civil society to undergo gender competence and legal training.

554. Fiji stated that in March 2015, the Fijian Court of Appeal ruled that the statutory requirement for the corroboration of evidence of children was contrary to the equality and anti-discrimination provision in the Constitution. Fiji reported that the effect of the judgment was to strike down and to declare invalid the corroboration section of the Juveniles Act, showing the readiness and willingness of the Fijian Judiciary to apply international human rights law domestically, enabled by section 7 of the Fijian Constitution.

555. Fiji reported that the Constitutional Redress Rules were amended in March 2015 by the Chief Justice and allowed for easier access to the Courts by litigants who alleged contravention of their rights, which was crucial as the majority of such litigants were usually marginalized members of society. Fiji stated that those mechanisms together with consistent and regular human rights and gender training for all judges and magistrates would rapidly lead to emerging and progressive human rights jurisprudence.

556. Regarding the recommendations on media freedom, Fiji reiterated that the Constitution unequivocally recognized freedom of the press as pivotal to freedom of speech, expression, thought, opinion and publication. Fiji stated that it recognized its historical past of racism and religious prejudice, a past in which the media sadly played a pivotal and negative role. Fiji stated that it was working with the media through the Media Industry Development Authority to encourage the media to work towards a development model of media freedom. Fiji noted that, notwithstanding the criticism of the Media Industry Development Law, no media organisation had been prosecuted for any editorial content, nor had any journalist been prosecuted under that Law.

557. The delegation referred to its response to a communication, from the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture of the alleged rape and abduction of a woman, which had demonstrated that following a thorough investigation conducted by the Fijian Police Force, there were no grounds found on which a prosecution could be brought.

558. The delegation reported that five months ago Fiji had facilitated a visit of an ILO Direct Contacts Mission which prepared a constructive report recommending a way forward for Fiji and that the Government had already begun to implement the recommendations in the report. The delegation stated that the Government had already met with stakeholders who were directly impacted upon by the Essential National Industries Decree (ENID) to discuss issues pertaining to that law. Fiji stated that those stakeholders would formulate any proposed amendments to ENID for onward transmission to the Cabinet and to the Fijian Parliament. Fiji reported that the Government was also in the process of executing a Memorandum of Understanding which included an undertaking to review ENID and acknowledged that this was a positive step towards further improving Fiji's labour laws.

559. Fiji stated that it had implemented a significant number of economic and social reforms, which included free education, free medicine, free water, electricity at subsidized rates for certain categories of Fijian citizens, and legislation had been passed to increase the employer's contribution to future pensions from 8 percent to 10 percent of gross wages so that 18 percent of a worker's annual salary would now contribute to the creation of a proper pension fund and social security.

560. In conclusion the delegation stated that Fiji welcomed genuine assistance and collaboration to improve the human rights of all Fijians and would continue to institute reforms which were major, practical, and sustained.

## **2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

561. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Fiji, 9 delegations made statements.

562. Indonesia commended the Government for its successful elections in 2014, noting Indonesia's co-lead as a member of the Multinational Observer Group. Indonesia hoped that the democratization process in Fiji would further strengthen constitutional reforms, enhance active participation and promote long term stability. Indonesia appreciated Fiji's on-going ratification of the Convention against Torture and expressed its readiness to support Fiji through the Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI). Indonesia commended the Government for renewing its efforts to accelerate the effective implementation of the Fiji National Gender Policy according to clear and measureable targets.

563. Kuwait congratulated Fiji on the progress it had made on implementing the recommendations made to it, particularly in promoting human rights. Kuwait also welcomed Fiji's clear commitment to upholding the universal principles and values as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which were also to be found in the 2013 Constitution, which stressed the need to uphold social and economic rights as well as civil and political rights and for them to apply equally to all people in the country. Kuwait congratulated Fiji on the organization of its elections and on the fairness of those elections.

564. New Zealand expressed support for Fiji's active engagement in the UPR process and recognized a number of significant developments since the Working Group session. New Zealand welcomed the removal of the death penalty from the military code; the laying of charges against Police and Military officers regarding the death of a prisoner in police custody; the establishment by the Government of a Legal Aid Commission and the Fiji Government's commitment to establish a Constitutional Offices Commission, which in turn would establish the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission. New Zealand was encouraged to note the increased ranking of Fiji in the Reporters without Borders' international media freedom index; and recent changes in parliamentary scrutiny and debate and the establishment of such standing committees as the Public Accounts, Economic and Natural Resources Committees. While welcoming Fiji's ratification of the Convention against Torture, New Zealand urged that due consideration be given to the impact of reservations on achieving the full spirit of the Convention.

565. Sierra Leone noted with satisfaction the Government of Fiji's acceptance of the majority of recommendations received, including those made by Sierra Leone, and looked forward to their subsequent implementation. Sierra Leone highly valued the cooperation and constructive engagement demonstrated by Fiji to the UPR mechanism and commended the further efforts being taken by the Government to further protect women and girls from violence.

566. Sri Lanka was pleased to note that the recommendations it made enjoyed the support of Fiji. Sri Lanka commended the people of Fiji for the conduct of elections in September

2014 and the steps taken to pave the way for democratic and civilian constitutional rule. Sri Lanka encouraged the new Government to continue to take all possible steps required to work with all parties concerned to strengthen the success achieved by the landmark election. Sri Lanka trusted that the new Government, while identifying the deficiencies and challenges it faced, would take the necessary steps aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of Fijian people. Sri Lanka stated that the international community, including the Council, should look at ways to provide the necessary technical assistance and capacity building to Fiji, in full cooperation with the Government, while taking into account specific needs and priorities.

567. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela stated that the Government of Fiji had made a great many efforts to fulfil the commitments made to the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review and had offered complete and open cooperation. Venezuela particularly welcomed the progress made by Fiji to bring about free access to early childhood education and inter alia, at the primary and secondary education sectors. Venezuela noted that more than 900 schools had benefited from education subsidies. Venezuela paid tribute to the Government for the efforts it had made to fulfil its human rights commitments despite the real severe limitations the country experienced, particularly the challenges posed by climate change.

568. China commended Fiji's constructive participation in the Universal Periodic Review and for accepting a large number of recommendations, which showed Fiji's positive commitment to strengthening international cooperation and the protection and promotion of its people's human rights. China commended Fiji for accepting the recommendations China had made to continue making it a priority to reduce poverty in its national development strategy and to improve people's well-being. China encouraged Fiji, with the support of the international community, to steadily implement all the accepted recommendations for achieving comprehensive human rights progress.

569. Cuba expressed appreciation for Fiji's acceptance of Cuba's recommendation related to the implementation of Fiji's national policy for persons with disabilities. Cuba reported on Fiji's praiseworthy work to make sure that the needs of this group of the population were met and guaranteed. Cuba reiterated its gratitude to Fiji for its commitment to ensure that education was free at the primary and secondary school levels. Cuba once again urged the international community to support the efforts that the country was making in those sectors that Fiji had identified as priorities.

570. India congratulated the delegation of Fiji for the successful completion of its Universal Periodic Review and was encouraged to see the wide representation in the delegation which reflected Fiji's commitment to the UPR process. India expressed appreciation that Fiji's new 2013 Constitution affirmed fundamental principles and values set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and eliminated the enforcement of ethnic voting and included social and economic rights along with civil and political rights. India was encouraged to note that Fiji had accepted many of the 138 recommendations made to it, including the two made by India regarding steps to ensure the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission's compliance with the Paris Principles and expeditious enactment of the Freedom of Information Bill. India believed that Fiji had gained much for its participation in the UPR and wished it success in its future endeavours.

### **3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders**

571. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Fiji, 4 other stakeholders made statements.

572. Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) congratulated Fiji for taking initial steps towards a revived democracy by holding elections. CHRI stated that freedoms of

expression, peaceful assembly and political representation continued to be marred by draconian decrees and legislation adopted by the previous military regime. CHRI noted that, while the Government had opened space for public debate and ended official censorship, journalists continued to face arrest, arbitrary detention and levying of heavy fines under the Media Industry Development Decree. CHRI further reported that the Political Parties Decree prohibited union leaders and public officers from forming political parties. CHRI also welcomed Fiji's decision to ratify the Convention against Torture, but noting Fiji's reservations to the Convention and past irregularities in preventing torture and other abuse against peaceful protesters, urged the Government to repeal military decrees violating human rights and facilitate visits by the special rapporteurs on torture and peaceful assembly. Commenting on the reported political influence on the appointment, removal and working of judges and lawyers, CHRI stated that the Government should install necessary checks and balances for the independence of the judiciary and extend an invitation to the special rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers. According to CHRI, the Fijian Constitution adopted in 2013 did little to address the above-mentioned challenges.

573. Minority Rights Group (MRG) welcomed the removal of the death penalty from the military code and Parliament's endorsement of the ratification of the Convention against Torture. MRG expressed concern that the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission lacked adequate resources and the Commission's chairperson and members had yet to be appointed and that the body tasked to make those appointments under the Constitution had yet to be established and that no timeframe was in place to set up those institutions. MRG expressed concern that Fiji had not accepted recommendations related to legitimising the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji of 2013. According to MRG, a comprehensive review of the Constitution by an independent body was instrumental for the consolidation of democracy in Fiji, would add credibility to the Constitution and ensure that it was representative of the people. MRG was concerned at the lack of political will to remove oppressive provisions imposed by decree. MRG stated that the Government had rejected all recommendations related to removing restrictions to the right to freedoms of expression, association and assembly from the legislative framework, which was contrary to the accepted recommendations to protect those rights. Noting that Fiji would be a candidate for election to the Human Rights Council in 2016, MRG called on Fiji to take immediate measures to implement the recommendations arising from the UPR and work closely with civil society in that regard.

574. Human Rights Watch (HRW) stated that the Universal Periodic Review came at an important point in Fiji's history, including the holding in 2014 of its first general elections in eight years. Noting that member states had called for the abolition of decrees restricting media freedom, HRW deeply regretted that Fiji refused to accept recommendations in that regard and to acknowledge concerns that the framework restricted the right to freedom of expression and encouraged censorship. HRW stated that Government interference and intimidation continued such as in June last year when the Media Industry Development Authority called for the investigation of two journalism academics for commenting on the military's use of torture. Noting that Fiji allowed the ILO Direct Contacts Mission in October 2014 to examine serious allegations of abuses of worker's right and HRW urged Fiji's continuing engagement with the ILO and the international community, including global union federations, towards reaching a commitment in that regard. HRW welcomed Fiji's commitment to facilitate the one visit of Special Procedures per year and urged the Government to swiftly facilitate the visit of the Special Rapporteur for torture, and to commit to fully investigating allegations of torture by security forces. HRW stated that Fiji should as soon as possible and without delay, undertake the ratification of additional core human rights instruments such as the two International Covenants and ensure that local laws aligned with their provisions.

575. Amnesty International (AI) welcomed the Government's recent efforts, including: by becoming the 99th abolitionist country when it repealed the death penalty for all crimes; by promptly investigating and charging those responsible for a recent death in custody; and by announcing its commitment to ratify the Convention against Torture. AI welcomed the review by the Government of the Essential National Industries Decree (ENID) which reportedly severely restricted collective bargaining rights, the right to strike and the right to form and join trade unions in certain sectors. AI urged the Government to ensure that the Decree be amended to meet international labour standards. While Fiji had made progress in recognizing economic and social rights, AI regretted that civil and political rights were not yet equally promoted and protected. AI stated that a number of cases of torture and ill-treatment had not been investigated by the authorities and freedom of expression remained restricted by a range of national laws, including the Media Industry Development Decree. While welcoming Fiji's acceptance of many recommendations, in particular to issue a standing invitation to Special Procedures, AI urged the Government to accept requests to visit Fiji by the UN Special Rapporteurs on freedom of expression, and on the independence of judges and lawyers, and to fully co-operate with them. AI was disappointed that Fiji was unable to accept recommendations to amend national legislation to ensure it guaranteed freedom of expression, assembly and association in line with international human rights law.

#### **4. Concluding remarks of the State under review**

576. The President stated that based on the information provided out of 138 recommendations received, 112 enjoy the support of Fiji, and 26 are noted.

577. Fiji thanked the respective States for their input and their encouragement for the development a human rights culture in Fiji.

578. Fiji also thanked the non-governmental organizations for acknowledging advances made. Commenting on other responses from non-governmental organizations, Fiji stated that unfortunately some of the comments made and observations made by NGOs were not based on facts and noted that in recent years a number of police officers and military officers had been charged, convicted and imprisoned for abuse or assault of persons in custody.

579. Fiji reiterated that at a recently held stakeholders meeting in March 2015, on the Essential National Industries Decree there was a general consensus and Government recognition that the law needed to be improved.

580. Regarding freedom of expression issues and the development of jurisprudence, the delegation reported that the provisions of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights would prevail where any laws were contrary to their principles and provisions. The Bill of Rights specifically incorporated international human rights law into Fiji's domestic law.

#### **San Marino**

581. The review of San Marino was held on 29 October 2014 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by San Marino in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/SMR/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/SMR/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/SMR/3).

582. At its 38th meeting, on 18 March 2015, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of San Marino (see section C below).

583. The outcome of the review of San Marino comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/28/9), the views of San Marino concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/28/9/Add.1).

**1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome**

584. San Marino noted that it has been seriously committed to the UPR since the first cycle and that San Marino authorities and population are aware of the importance of promoting and protecting the fundamental rights and freedom of human beings in all circumstances. San Marino Ministry of Foreign Affairs has prepared its national report in close cooperation with all the relevant ministries. After the Working Group, San Marino reviewed all the recommendations scrupulously and accepted 46 out of 74. For some of them, San Marino has already carried out some initiatives while new actions should be launched for other recommendations. In this context, since the Working Group, the Parliament has adopted the law on providing assistance, social inclusion and rights for persons with disabilities as accepted under recommendations 78.39- 78.42. San Marino also submitted an addendum wherein it provided replies to the 17 recommendations that were pending. San Marino did not accept the recommendations regarding the ratification of ICCPED and the European Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes. The reasons for the non-ratification are related to the limited human resources that the Public Administration disposes thus limiting the number of new treaty commitments that San Marino can adhere to. Therefore, San Marino will not accept these recommendations as it cannot implement them in the next four years and not accepting these ratifications has no political motives. With regard to three other recommendations that were not accepted by San Marino, it was stated that in the current state of affairs, San Marino legal system does not provide for a full assimilation of same-sex couples to heterosexual couples (referring to recommendation 79.11). The two recommendations requesting the decriminalisation of defamation were not accepted because, based on the Criminal Code, the persistence of the crime of defamation is not restricting freedom of expression and effectively contributes to maintaining a delicate balance between the right to information and the right to privacy. The other nine pending recommendations were accepted bringing the total accepted recommendations to 55 out of 74. On the implementation of the 55 accepted recommendations San Marino will report on respecting international human rights standards at a later stage during the UPR. Such respect has been the fundamental pillar of society, particularly nowadays when all States have to face heavy economic, food and social crises that can threaten peace and security.

585. The recommendations received during this second UPR will help San Marino deepen the reflection, stimulate the debate and encourage changes. The UPR plays an important role, as through this review States are called to revise their laws and practices based on the recommendations they receive.

**2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

586. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of San Marino, six delegations made statements.

587. The Council of Europe congratulated San Marino on the success of its Universal Periodic Review (UPR). It highlighted three issues frequently raised by its monitoring bodies. First, San Marino should strengthen the fight against corruption and uphold transparency in public administration, notably it should adopt tools to avoid conflicts of interest. Second, with regard to racism and intolerance it recommended that San Marino establish an independent organ at the national level to combat racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance and review legislation regarding residence and work permits of foreign health workers in the private sector. With regard to the protection of national minorities, it recommended the continuation of awareness raising efforts on the importance of tolerance and intercultural dialogue, and promoting and facilitating the integration of immigrants as well as ensuring the effective implementation of the law against racial, ethnic, religious and sexual discrimination. It invited San Marino to consider ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women.

588. Kuwait expressed appreciation to San Marino for its presentation of its position and efforts to implement UPR recommendations as well as developments since the last review. It commended the comprehensive legislative reform that was undertaken to improve equality before the law without discrimination and to ensure equal access to public services in accordance with relevant international human rights instruments. Kuwait also appreciated efforts to ratify a number of important international conventions and protocols of the Council of Europe such as the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse and Protocol No. 15 amending the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

589. Sierra Leone commended San Marino for its transparent and open engagement with the UPR mechanism and for the numerous efforts undertaken to further promote and protect the rights of its citizens. It was pleased that the recommendations it had made enjoyed the support of San Marino. It urged San Marino nonetheless to consider ratifying ICRMW and ICPED.

590. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela stated that San Marino had fully and openly cooperated with the UPR mechanism. It indicated that San Marino's replies contained detailed descriptions of the policies adopted for the protection of the rights of women and the promotion of their participation in society, through the approval of important legislative provisions on violence against women and other protection measures. It highlighted that during the period under review San Marino had acceded to an important number of international human rights instruments. It acknowledged San Marino's important achievements in the field of human rights.

591. Burkina Faso thanked San Marino for the information submitted to the Human Rights Council within the context of its second Universal Periodic Review. It noted that, as a member of the troika of San Marino, it had been in a position to fully appreciate the efforts made by that country to effectively implement human rights. It also congratulated San Marino for its willingness to cooperate with the UPR and treaty bodies. It expressed the belief that San Marino will continue its efforts to face existing challenges to the implementation of human rights.

592. China appreciated efforts by San Marino to overcome difficulties in human resources and to complete in a timely fashion the huge amount of work in the review process. It indicated that San Marino had carried out an open exchange with other states, presented its measures for the promotion and protection of human rights, responded in a timely manner to the questions raised, and finally had accepted most of the recommendations it received. China expressed the hope that San Marino will attach importance to the implementation of the recommendations received and in particular protecting vulnerable groups in the country. It recommended that the Council adopt the report.



### 3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

593. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of San Marino, no other stakeholder made statements.

### 4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

594. The President stated that based on the information provided out of 74 recommendations received, 55 enjoy the support of San Marino and 19 are noted.

595. San Marino thanked all the delegations that made statements. In response to the recommendations made by the Council of Europe, San Marino has already signed the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) and currently a study is being carried out in view of its ratification. With regard to ECRI's recommendation to review the legislation on the residence and work permits for healthcare foreign personnel, a draft law has been prepared and has been submitted to the Parliament. San Marino stressed that, although the second UPR had ended, there is still much to do to implement the 55 accepted recommendations in the next four years. San Marino thanked the Human Rights Council Presidency, the Secretariat and the Troika (Burkina Faso, Chile and China) that worked closely with them during this review.

### Kazakhstan

596. The review of Kazakhstan was held on 30 November 2014 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Kazakhstan in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/KAZ/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/KAZ/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/KAZ/3).

597. At its 39th meeting, on 19 March 2015, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Kazakhstan (see section C below).

598. The outcome of the review of Kazakhstan comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/28/10), the views of Kazakhstan concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (*see also A/HRC/28/10/Add.1*).

### 1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome

599. The delegation of Kazakhstan underlined the significance of the universal periodic review for a comprehensive monitoring of the fulfilment of human rights and freedoms by member-states.

600. The delegation stated that international community recognised Kazakhstan as a country with sustainable human rights mechanisms and traditions, which were achieved due to democratic and economic reforms undertaken by Kazakhstan. The Government would continue the work in the same vein and the universal periodic review would facilitate the targeted and sustained work. The results of the work would become the basis for the development of the second national plan of action on human rights.

601. The delegation summarised its position to 194 recommendations that were put forward during the review. Kazakhstan had initially accepted 143 recommendations by considering 47 of them as implemented and 96 recommendations as being in the process of implementation. Kazakhstan could not support the remaining 51 recommendations and the Government provided explanations for its position towards those recommendations in a written form.

602. Having in mind the recent legislative initiatives, including the adoption of a new criminal law in January 2015, Kazakhstan reconsidered its position regarding the recommendation no. 126.27 on exclusion of judicial evidence received through torture. This recommendation, which was not supported initially during the working group, was accepted and considered as implemented.

603. The delegation explained that Kazakhstan would continue improving its legislation in several areas that are related to some of the recommendations that were not supported by Kazakhstan, such as the gradual abolition of the death penalty, improvements of remuneration of work and migration policies as well as further humanisation of criminal legislation. As regards to ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Kazakhstan would continue studying that issue.

604. The delegation provided information on positive trends in respect to the follow-up of the recommendations since the interactive dialogue in 2014. Kazakhstan completed the ratification of the CRPD in February, 2015. Subsequently, the Parliament has been considering draft amendments that are necessary to bring respective laws into line with the Convention.

605. The Government would continue combating the root causes and consequences of corruption within the framework of its Anti-Corruption Strategy adopted in January, 2015. Legislative measures have been initiated to ensure effective participation of the civil society in decision making processes. For example, a decision was adopted to draft a Law on Public Access to Information as well as legal amendments to broaden forms of the State support to non-governmental organisations.

606. The new Criminal Code had made it possible to strengthen the guarantees for the right to fair trial and for improvements in criminal investigation and punishment. The Parliament has been considering a new Civil Procedural Code and the new Law on Arbitration, which aimed at strengthening guarantees for justice and extra-judicial mechanisms for settling civil disputes.

607. A state policy on youth was adopted to promote active participation of youth in decision making and public life. The Government would continue its policy aimed at strengthening the family values and ensuring the rights of mothers and children. A decision was taken to create an Ombudsman on the Rights of the Child.

608. The delegation highlighted the Government's intension to implement the recommendations put forward during the review. Economic and social progress would allow fulfilling the set objectives. Kazakhstan achieved substantial reduction in unemployment, prosperity of its population increased, longevity reached over 70 years, the level of poverty fell four times, and literacy rate reached almost 100 percent. The Government would continue its work in the area of human dimension and rule of law.

## **2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

609. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Kazakhstan, 18 delegations made statements.

610. Pakistan noted with appreciation that Kazakhstan accepted the majority of the recommendations that were put forward during the universal periodic review. It noted the constructive engagement of Kazakhstan with the human rights mechanism of the United Nations and measures undertaken to strengthen the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner.

611. The Russian Federation noted with satisfaction that Kazakhstan accepted numerous recommendations including those made by the Russian Federation. It noted the readiness of Kazakhstan to strengthen the protection and promotion of human rights and to continue further improving the national human rights protection system.

612. Sri Lanka noted with appreciation the progress made in the area of social and economic development. It encouraged Kazakhstan to continue its efforts to prevent and eliminate child labour, and to protect the rights of children and ensure their wellbeing.

613. Tajikistan noted the efforts made by Kazakhstan in order to implement its international obligations and the readiness to cooperate with the international human rights mechanisms. It referred to guarantees provided by Kazakhstan for sustainable development and for the protection of health of mothers and children, the improvements in pension and education system, and reduction of poverty level. Tajikistan noted with appreciation progress achieved in harmonious relations among various inter-ethnic and inter-religious groups.

614. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland remained concerned that the Criminal Procedure Code did not adequately address the balance of powers between prosecutors and defence. It expressed a view that better resourcing of the Office of the Ombudsman and the Commissioner of Human Rights would assist with drafting and implementation of a new National Action Plan on Human Rights.

615. The United States of America commended the establishment of a national preventative mechanism. It expressed concern that Kazakhstan did not accept the recommendations to protect space for dissent, including by decriminalising libel and minimising fines against media, and to modify or repeal the trade union law, restricting freedom of association. It encouraged Kazakhstan to reconsider its decision and accept those recommendations as is. It also urged Kazakhstan to prevent or mitigate the potential negative impact of newly adopted laws that might further restrict activities of civil society and enjoyment of freedoms.

616. Uzbekistan noted with satisfaction that Kazakhstan accepted the majority of the recommendations including those put forward by Uzbekistan on strengthening the national human rights protection system and making further efforts to combat trafficking in human beings. It expressed the view that the implementation of the recommendations accepted would promote further the protection of the human rights and freedoms in Kazakhstan.

617. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted with appreciation Kazakhstan's commitment to protect human rights and the progress made in this area. It recognised efforts made by Kazakhstan to implement the accepted recommendations of the first universal periodic review.

618. Afghanistan commended Kazakhstan for accepting a large number of recommendations. It noted with appreciation Kazakhstan's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights as well as measures undertaken to improve access of the population to public services.

619. Belarus noted that Kazakhstan accepted the majority of the recommendations, thereby confirming once again its commitment to continue consolidation of the national capacity to promote and protect human rights. It expressed the confidence that the

implementation of the recommendations received during the second cycle of the universal periodic review would allow Kazakhstan improving its human rights protection system.

620. Brunei Darussalam commended Kazakhstan for its commitment to protect and promote human rights and for its efforts to ensure sustainable economic development. It noted with appreciation that Kazakhstan accepted more than half of the recommendations put forward during its review.

621. China noted with appreciation that Kazakhstan accepted most of recommendations, including recommendations put forward by China on religious and ethnic tolerance and the rights of children. China commended Kazakhstan for its efforts to maintain harmony and tolerance among different religious and ethnic groups.

622. Cuba noted with appreciation the efforts undertaken by Kazakhstan to combat long-term unemployment, especially among young persons and to protect environment as well as increased budget allocations for education and the effective protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. It thanked Kazakhstan for accepting recommendations put forward by Cuba on the implementation of programmes related to employment and education.

623. Ethiopia commended Kazakhstan for accepting a large number of recommendations. It noted with satisfaction Kazakhstan's commitment to the protection human rights.

624. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended Kazakhstan for progress made in implementing the recommendations of the first cycle of the universal periodic review. It noted with appreciation the national plan on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, progress achieved in combating trafficking in human beings and the establishment of a national preventative mechanism.

625. Kuwait noted with appreciation efforts made by Kazakhstan to implement recommendations put forward during its first universal periodic review and progress achieved in this respect. It highlighted the adoption of strategies on building democracy and the rule of law, and on the protection of the human rights and freedoms.

626. Malaysia noted with appreciation the efforts made by Kazakhstan to strengthen its legislative and institutional framework and its progress in the advancement of the rights of women and children, and combating human trafficking. It took positive note of the acceptance of recommendations put forward by Malaysia on strengthening the national human rights institution and on the advancement of the rights of women.

627. Sierra Leone noted the acceptance of many recommendations by Kazakhstan. It encouraged Kazakhstan to consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on the Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

### **3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders**

628. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Kazakhstan, 8 other stakeholders made statements.

629. Lawyers for Lawyers, the Law Society of England and Wales, and Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada called on Kazakhstan to speed up the effective implementation of the accepted recommendations on strengthening the independence of judiciary and the role of lawyers. They noted with regret Kazakhstan's refusal of recommendations calling on ensuring that human rights defenders, including lawyers, could freely practice their activities without fear of reprisals. They called on Kazakhstan to accept the

recommendation no.126.46 and to ensure that forced psychiatric detection would meet international standards.

630. Article 19 noted that the 2015 Criminal Code placed undue restrictions on freedom of expression, retained excessive custodial penalties for defamation and provided imprisonment for insulting the President. The Code created a new offence of ‘dissemination of false information’ and contained overbroad limitations in incitement to hatred and illegitimate restrictions of freedom of peaceful assembly. Article 19 called on reforming those provisions. It stated that Kazakhstan’s assertion that the recommendation to cease the practice of closing or blocking opposition publications and online sources were already implemented, did not reflect the reality. It urged holding Kazakhstan accountable to international standards under the ICCPR.

631. Human Rights Watch noted that the review of Kazakhstan took place against the backdrop of a serious decline in its rights record, with authorities cracking down on free speech and peaceful dissent, imprisoning government critics and tightening controls over freedom of association, religion and assembly. It noted with regret that Kazakhstan rejected many recommendations that called for changing the legislation that restricted civil and political rights and about Kazakhstan’s assertion that accepted recommendations were already implemented or was in the process of implementation. For example, Kazakhstan claimed that authorities engaged in thorough and impartial investigations into all allegations of torture, yet impunity for torture remained the norm.

632. Amnesty International (AI) encouraged Kazakhstan to realize fully all recommendations it maintained had been implemented and the 96 recommendations that it considered as being implemented. It urged Kazakhstan to strengthen safeguards against torture, including by implementing relevant recommendations. By referring to recent attacks on the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly, AI noted with regret that Kazakhstan rejected more than half of the recommendations concerning those freedoms. It urged Kazakhstan to reconsider its position and to decriminalize defamation and remove excessive restrictions on peaceful assembly. Although Kazakhstan accepted some recommendations on the death penalty, AI noted with regret that Kazakhstan rejected recommendations to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR.

633. UN Watch expressed concern about the human rights situation in Kazakhstan, particularly detention of opposition leaders, and restriction on media and civil society. It noted with regret that Kazakhstan rejected important recommendations related, inter alia, to the freedom of expression, assembly, religion, association and promotion of gender equality. The UN Watch called on Kazakhstan to allow media and civil society to operate freely and take steps to promote gender equality.

634. The British Humanist Association noted with regret Kazakhstan’s refusal to review its legislation regarding freedom of assembly, religion or belief and of expression. Non-traditional and minority groups suffered from the lack of definition in the religions laws and the new Criminal Code could be used against any speech that threatens the status quo. It urged Kazakhstan, inter alia, to adhere to its verbalised approval of the Rabat Plan of Action through its domestic implementation and reconsider its refusal to review domestic legislation.

635. The World Evangelical Alliance stated that a meaningful participation of civil society in the national consultation process remained a challenge due to a climate of fear, affecting religious minorities often labelled as “sects” and subjected to a close surveillance. The mandatory registration system set standards that were difficult to reach for small communities and it was contrary to international human rights law, by punishing those who participated in religious activities outside a registered community. The World Evangelical Alliance stated that it did not share the position of the Government that the

recommendation nos. 124.21 and 124.23 were already implemented. It also asked Kazakhstan to reconsider its position on recommendations nos.126.21, 126.28, 126.33 and 126.34 that did not enjoy the support of Kazakhstan.

636. Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme noted that Kazakhstan continued its cooperation with the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations since its first universal periodic review. It encouraged Kazakhstan to implement the recommendations of the second review that would result in quantitative and qualitative changes in the human rights situation. It noted with appreciation launching of interfaith and interethnic dialogue. However, it was concerned by restrictions on political parties, human rights defenders, media and trade unions. It called on Kazakhstan to remove all obstacles on the right to peaceful assemblies and freedom of expression, as well as ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

#### **4. Concluding remarks of the State under review**

637. The President stated that based on the information provided out of 194 recommendations received, 144 enjoy the support of Kazakhstan, and 50 recommendations are noted.

638. The delegation thanked the non-governmental organisations for their recommendations. It reminded, however, that any improvement of legislation must be considered in a view of the existing practice and that a law could be viable only if it was consistent with the practice. Therefore, Kazakhstan would consider those recommendations based on its practice and would discuss them only if they complied with its national interests and state strategic programs.

639. As for the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights the delegation noted that Kazakhstan had already ratified the Convention and would submit its first report to the Human Rights Committee in 2016.

640. As regards balancing powers of prosecutors and of defense lawyers, the delegation stated that Kazakhstan has been undertaking the judicial reform in order to strengthen the role of lawyers and that the new criminal laws that came into force in January, 2015, aimed to do so. Therefore, the delegation called on non-governmental organizations to undertake a careful study of the legislation.

641. Kazakhstan would continue to participate in the universal periodic review with the involvement of non-governmental organizations and relevant authorities. The Government's efforts have been aimed to establishing long-term partnership with non-governmental and international organizations.

642. Working groups on democracy, justice, rule of law and law-making process were established within the Dialogue Platform on Human Dimension and the participation of non-governmental organizations and relevant authorities was ensured in the work of those working groups. Therefore, all suggestions made during the adoption of the outcome of the review would be discussed within those working groups.

643. The delegation expressed the commitment of Kazakhstan in continuing open and transparent dialogue with the special procedure mandate holders of the United Nations, which was demonstrated by issuing a standing invitation to mandate holders in 2009.

644. In conclusion, the delegation reaffirmed the Government's commitment in ensuring the justice system and upholding the rule of law and modernizing institutions with the view to guaranteeing human rights and freedoms and prosperity to its citizens.

## Angola

645. The review of the Republic of Angola was held on 30 October 2014 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Angola in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/AGO/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/AGO/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/AGO/3).

646. At its 39th meeting, on 19 March 2015, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Angola (see section C below).

647. The outcome of the review of Angola comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/28/11), the views of Angola concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (*see also A/HRC/28/11/Add.1*).

### 1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome

648. The delegation, headed by H. E. Rui Jorge Carneiro Manguera, Minister of Justice and Human Rights, stated that of the 226 recommendations received during the review, 192 enjoyed the support of the Republic of Angola and 34 recommendations were noted. The recommendations were valuable and constructive and will reinforce the national mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights. Most of the recommendations have already been implemented through many ongoing Government programs.

649. In relation to the 34 recommendations that were noted the delegation stated: first, with regard to the establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance with the Principles of Paris, Angola was of the view that the Ombudsman's Office was the national institution for human rights, with duties, responsibilities and a constitutional framework in compliance with the Paris Principles.

650. Second, with regard to the issuing of a standing invitation to all Special Rapporteurs, the delegation clarified that Angola was committed to reinforcing its cooperation with the international human rights mechanisms. In the last few years, the Government had invited the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. Also, two former United Nations High Commissioners for Human Rights visited Angola. The Government intends to extend invitations to the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context.

651. Third, the Government was considering joining the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative partnership. On 22th December 2014, the President of the Republic of Angola signed an executive order creating a working group to evaluate this possibility.

652. Fourth, the Government was evaluating its obligations for ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, Nevertheless, the

rights protected under this Convention will be considered under the ongoing reform of the justice sector.

653. Fifth, the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court was still under consideration. Angola, as a member of the African Union (AU), supported the position of the AU on the international criminal court.

654. Finally, in relation to the decriminalization of defamation and related offenses, the Government was of the view that freedom of expression is a fundamental right conferred by article 40 of the Constitution of the Republic of Angola, along with the Press Law as well as other international legal instruments ratified by the Republic of Angola, such as the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The restriction provided in article 19 of the ICCPR requires an offender (including a journalist) to face charges in criminal proceedings for defamation, slander or similar offenses in accordance with items 3 and 4 of article 40 of the Republic of Angola Constitution and articles 407 and 410 of the Criminal Code, in addition to the possibility of disciplinary and civil proceedings. The limitation imposed by the law is to protect the individual interests of offended citizens and was not primarily directed at violating or restricting the right to freedom of expression, like, in many other countries.

655. The delegation stated that the 34 noted recommendations will continue to deserve the special attention of the Government over the next four years.

## **2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

656. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Angola, 16 delegations made statements. Available written statements of those delegations unable to deliver their statements during the session due to time constraints<sup>43</sup> are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council.

657. China commended Angola for its constructive participation in the UPR process and for its detailed presentation. It welcomed Angola's positive response to the recommendations received, in particular for accepting most of the recommendations including those made by China. Such efforts will provide a solid basis for the Angolan people to enjoy all rights and for promoting economic and social development.

658. Côte d'Ivoire thanked Angola for the attention given to the recommendations it had received during its review. It encouraged Angola to consolidate efforts to guarantee freedom of expression and space for civil society as well as efforts on gender equality and protection for children. It requested that the Government continue to cooperate with the international community.

659. Cuba congratulated Angola for measures undertaken to improve the rights of the child, the right to education, human rights education, the right to health, sustainable development and combating poverty. It thanked Angola for accepting those recommendations it had made on the National Strategy for Long-Term Development "Angola 2025" and the fight against poverty, in particular through the implementation of the integrated municipal rural-development and poverty-control programs.

660. Djibouti welcomed the government's commitment to strengthening and protecting human rights. It encouraged Angola to continue efforts to accomplish progress and the full realisation of human rights in the country.

<sup>43</sup> <https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/28thSession/Pages/Calendar.aspx>.



661. Equatorial Guinea noted considerable progress made at the normative and institutional levels since the adoption of the new Constitution by Angola. It welcomed, in particular, efforts by the Government to achieve the main Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and measures taken to implement recommendations received during Angola's first UPR. It also commended initiatives adopted to strengthen the domestic legal system for the protection of human rights, and in particular the national development strategy "Angola 2025".

662. Ethiopia commended Angola for accepting a significant number of recommendations including the recommendations it had made to improve the conditions of women in rural areas and further work on improving the judicial system by providing capacity-building assistance and training in the field of human rights. It also commended achievements in, inter alia, protecting women, children and fighting corruption, freedom of expression, gender equality and provision of education and housing noting the mechanisms adopted by Angola to achieve these objectives.

663. Gabon welcomed the commitment of Angola to implementing recommendations accepted during its second UPR and appreciated that Angola had accepted the recommendations it had made. It noted with satisfaction that numerous efforts had been made by Angola to promote and protect human rights, notably the adoption of a number of legislative and administrative measures to fight against corruption and human trafficking.

664. Ghana stated that the implementation of recommendations received during the UPR will enhance the development agenda of Angola. It urged Angola to redouble efforts to ratify or accede to the various international human rights instruments it has undertaken to become a party to and implement those instruments through institutionalised structures. It encouraged Angola to avail itself of the support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and request the relevant assistance from the international community.

665. Kuwait welcomed efforts to implement recommendations accepted during the UPR. It commended Angola's commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights as a standing characteristic of the national policy framework. It also commended efforts to achieve the main MDGs in accordance with the national plan 2013-2017 and the aim to create conditions that are conducive to development and improving the distribution of wealth.

666. Lao People's Democratic Republic thanked Angola for its comprehensive presentation and noted with appreciation the acceptance of a large number of recommendations from the last review and the steps taken to implement them. Lao PDR commended Angola for its efforts to strengthen the national system for the promotion and protection of human rights and welcomed the progress made in combating violence against women and children, poverty and corruption, and in promoting gender equality and the rights of persons with disabilities.

667. Norway thanked Angola for its positive engagement with the UPR process. It commended Angola for creating an inter-ministerial committee to consider partnership of the Extra Industries Transparency Initiative, as a follow-up to the recommendation made by Norway. During the review, Norway also made recommendations on the freedom of the press, the working environment for civil society and the fights against child mortality and looked forward to the fruitful cooperation in the follow-up to the recommendations and to the UPR process.

668. Portugal applauded the professionalism and dedication with which Angola had responded to questions and recommendations during its UPR. It expressed satisfaction with Angola's acceptance of its recommendations, in particular to ratify the second Optional Protocol to ICCPR and the Optional Protocol to ICESCR, as well as those to develop a

National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security, reinforce the role of the Provedor (Ombudsman) and continue efforts to criminalize corporal punishment of children.

669. Russian Federation thanked Angola for its written presentation detailing its position on the recommendations that had been received. It welcomed the acceptance of the majority of recommendations including those it had made which demonstrated the continued work by the Government to promote and protect human rights and its readiness to continue cooperating with international monitoring mechanism. It recommended the adoption of the report.

670. Sierra Leone expressed appreciation that Angola had fully supported the recommendations it had made. It also noted the positive reaction to the recommendation to create a human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles and commended this step forward. It urged Angola to consider creating a viable environment which would enable issuing a standing invitation to the Special Procedures. It wished Angola success in the implementation of accepted recommendations.

671. South Africa congratulated Angola on a successful review and for the acceptance of a large number of recommendations which was testimony to the country's commitment to human rights. Angola has embarked on a new era with the adoption of a new Constitution establishing a democratic State based on the rule of law. South Africa welcomed the establishment of a national plan for development and for efforts to create conditions to enable growth and social progress.

672. Sri Lanka expressed appreciation for the constructive spirit in which Angola engaged in the UPR process, and was pleased to note that Angola accepted the recommendations made by Sri Lanka. It welcomed the commitment by Angola to human rights demonstrated through measures including the adoption of a new Constitution. It stated that it would be useful if Angola obtained assistance from the international community in relation to challenges faced at the end of a protracted civil war.

### **3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders**

673. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Angola, four stakeholders made statements.

674. East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP) noted the acceptance by Angola of many recommendations relating to the operating space for human rights defenders and civil society. However, there was a considerable disconnect between those commitments and the situation in the country, as dissenting voices, human rights defenders and journalists came under routine attack. EHAHRDP stated that Angola must allow human rights defenders and journalists to work safely and without reprisals.

675. Amnesty International (AI) called on Angola to implement supported recommendations. It expressed disappointment that Angola had rejected 34 recommendations, including some calling on the Government to refrain from using criminal defamation laws to restrict freedom of expression. AI expressed concern with regard to the authorities not allowing demonstrations to take place. During demonstrations, police have arbitrarily arrested and detained demonstrators. It urged Angola to allow peaceful demonstrations to take place and to refrain from using excessive force against peaceful demonstrators.

676. Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme noted the measures taken to promote and protect human rights. It regretted the lack of hospitality by Angola regarding migrant Africans despite the contribution by their countries to Angola's independence. It deplored the cruel and inhuman treatment of children accused of witchcraft. It expressed concern about sexual violence and sexual inequality, and was

alarmed by the treatment of migrants by the security forces. It urged Angola to create a favourable environment for civil society, press freedom and to enable peaceful demonstrations. Attention should be given to the rights of religious minorities. Measures should be taken to combat impunity by the agents of the state and to ensure that victims have access to justice.

677. Lutheran World Federation stated that the national reconstruction programme for the building of new social economic and cultural infrastructure did not comply with the fundamental right to housing. It stated that thousands of families had been evicted from their homes and relocated to areas with inadequate living conditions. Those who spoke out against this injustice and defended the rights of the victims faced repeated threats.

#### **4. Concluding remarks of the State under review**

678. The President stated that based on information received of the 226 recommendations received, 192 recommendations enjoyed the support of Angola, and 34 recommendations were noted.

679. The delegation thanked member states and civil society for their comments. It stated that the approach to the UPR taken by Angola was constructive in light of the recommendations accepted. Also, those recommendations that have been noted were under consideration by the Executive. The Government was working hand-in-hand with the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Human Rights Council to implement the recommendations.

680. The delegation reiterated that freedom of expression was guaranteed in the Constitution, and its regulation was consistent with relevant international human rights instruments. Legal protection was also given to the good name and the reputation of all citizens. The judicial institutions were the only institutions that may determine whether cases of defamation, slander or libel should be prosecuted, based on complaints from individuals. There was a separation of powers in Angola and that the Judiciary was entirely independent.

681. The delegation stated that there were no restrictions on freedom of assembly and on the right to hold demonstrations. Demonstrations were held on a regular basis. Where demonstrations result in violence the law and order institutions have the responsibility to protect all citizens from such violence.

682. The delegation stated that cases of excessive use of force by law and order personnel were subject to investigation and where appropriate, punishment. There have been cases of excessive use of force by law and order personnel, resulting in penalties consistent with the law.

683. The delegation stated that in recent years Angola has hosted thousands of immigrants. Angola enjoyed stable peace, and economic and social development at a sustained pace, which attracted many immigrants. Immigrants were processed in accordance with the law and customs and there was often dialogue with states whose nationals were received. There were situations of illegal immigration practices which lead to criminal activities such as money laundering and human trafficking. The Government has established an inter-ministerial task force to identify and stop those criminal activities. Those matters are generally dealt with promptly in accordance with the law and in full compliance with all human rights obligations.

### Islamic Republic of Iran

684. The review of the Islamic Republic of Iran was held on 31 October 2014 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Italy in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/IRN/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/IRN/2); and

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/IRN/3).

685. At its 39th meeting, on 19 March 2015, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of the Islamic Republic of Iran (see section C below).

686. The outcome of the review of the Islamic Republic of Iran comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/28/12 and Corr.1), the views of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (*see also A/HRC/28/12/Add.1*).

#### 1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome

687. The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasized that inspired by its religious democracy founded in the Islamic values and principles, it strongly believed in human rights and respect for human dignity and was firmly committed to the promotion and protection of human rights.

688. The Islamic Republic of Iran, encouraged by the rich experiences gained from the implementation of the accepted recommendations of the first cycle UPR, has devotedly participated in the second cycle with a constructive approach and much greater willingness to embrace the recommendations we have received.

689. The Government considered all 291 received recommendations with great attention and interest, communicating them to the relevant institutions for conducting extensive consultations with stakeholders, including civil society and non-governmental organizations.

690. The Islamic Republic of Iran has extended its support to 189 recommendations in their entirety or partially. Like other countries, it was not in a position to render its full support to some recommendations in spite of their full and thorough examination due to restrictions by national legislations or international obligations.

691. In addition to its full and constructive engagement with the UPR mechanism, it has had extensive cooperation with other UN bodies working in the field of human rights. Within the timeframe of 2010 to 2013, it presented periodic reports on ICERD (2010), on ICCPR (2011), on ICESCR (2013), on CRC (2013) and its first periodic report on the CRPD (2013).

692. It has initiated a new round of interaction with OHCHR and presented some proposals and projects for the expansion of cooperation in a mutually agreed framework. Furthermore, it has invited the High Commissioner to pay a visit. It has also sent an invitation to a thematic rapporteur to visit the country in 2015, and intends to invite another thematic rapporteur.

693. It has responded adequately to communications of Special Procedures, based on a policy to respond to all relevant communications as part of its responsive engagement and cooperation with international mechanisms.

694. In spite of its principled position, it has also held several rounds of discussion with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran in Geneva and New York, and responded to the issues raised in his communications.

695. All citizens of the country, both men and women, equally enjoy the protection of law and all human rights.

696. With respect to the status of women and their rights, it has made great achievements since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. For instance, close to half of university students are women. More than 75,000 university instructors and members of faculty are also women. More than 31,000 women are working as administrative and executive personnel of universities.

697. Regarding freedoms of expression and opinion, the Constitution enshrines freedom of publications. The Press Law also guarantees such freedoms. There are presently 6,100 publications registered. News agencies, specialized news agencies and news websites amount to more than 400 titles. Distribution of more than 30% of publications is local, 1,000 publications of which are published in different provinces, mostly in local languages or dialects. Over the last year, 130 publications were published in various fields by women as the chief editors.

698. Regarding political participation, Article 26 of the Constitution permits formation of parties, societies, political or professional associations, as well as religious societies. There are more than 230 political parties with different orientations, 400 professional associations and trade unions and 60 societies from religious minorities. Article 27 of the Constitution also stipulates that public gatherings and marches may be freely held, provided that arms are not carried. More than 17,000 community-based organizations have received permits to operate in areas such as human rights, social rights, charitable endeavours and environment and animal rights. High-ranking officials are elected, directly or indirectly by the votes of people. Over the past 35 years, 32 elections have been held to choose presidents, members of Assembly of Experts, representatives of the Parliament and city and rural councils.

699. The Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirmed the determination to build up its society underpinned by its national and religious values, while continuing adherence to its international obligations. It called on all countries to continue their efforts with a view to strengthening and elevating the UPR mechanism.

## **2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

700. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 17 delegations made statements. The statements of the delegations that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints<sup>44</sup> are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council, if available.

701. Nicaragua thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for the addendum submitted on follow-up to recommendations. It congratulated the Islamic Republic of Iran for accepting the majority of recommendations and its commitments at the national and international levels to promote and protect human rights. It highlighted that the UPR mechanism was the space, in which in a constructive fashion, dialogue and cooperation between states

<sup>44</sup> <https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/28thSession/Pages/Calendar.aspx>.

demonstrating political will should be maintained. Nicaragua expressed its disagreements to initiatives that promote politicised and disproportionate resolutions against countries like the Islamic Republic of Iran, which does not contribute to dialogue.

702. Oman stated that measures, laws and regulations are an embodiment of the Islamic Republic of Iran's commitment to promoting and protecting human rights in line with international human rights standards.

703. Pakistan appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran's cooperation with the human rights machinery including the Human Rights Council and the UPR mechanism. It believed that the UPR mechanism, based on interactive dialogue and full involvement of the country concerned, was the most cooperative, constructive and non-politicized mechanism of engagement. Pakistan commended the decision to accept the majority of recommendations, including those made by Pakistan related to rights of women, children and access to health services.

704. The Philippines recognized the significant achievements based in meeting the Millennium Development Goals. It encouraged the Government to build on the progress achieved to pursue programmes to better promote, protect and fulfil the human rights of women and children. It was also pleased with the introduction of human rights education, and encouraged the Government to consider taking further initiatives to build the capacity of law enforcement personnel and social service providers in promoting and protecting the human rights of the most vulnerable members of society.

705. The Russian Federation welcomed the measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding humanization of criminal legislation, combatting violence against women as well as supporting the institution of family in the country. It highly appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran's interaction with the treaty bodies, and openness to dialogue within the UPR.

706. Sierra Leone recognized that the recommendation to abolish the death penalty had not been reacted to. It expressed hope that this can be addressed shortly while consideration is given to the implementation of a moratorium on the death penalty. It commended the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Five-Year Development Plan, and wished for its successful outcome.

707. Sri Lanka encouraged the Islamic Republic of Iran to move forward in upholding its commitments to promote and protect human rights. It commended the invitation of the High Commissioner of Human Rights to visit the country, and efforts by the Government to promote economic, social and cultural rights. It also encouraged the country to continue with the positive steps taken in promoting access to education by girls and in enhancing women's participation in political, public and professional spheres.

708. The Sudan commended the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran has accepted a large number of the recommendations, including the two recommendations presented by Sudan.

709. Tajikistan recognised the UPR as a useful tool in cooperation and consolidation with civil society to improve the human rights situation in the country. It noted the Islamic Republic of Iran's demonstrated commitment to implementing its international obligations to protect human rights. It also recognized the legislative measures taken to promote economic, social and cultural rights of citizens. Tajikistan commended the country's efforts to combat terrorism and drug trafficking, and its intention to take appropriate measures to further improve the human rights situation in the country.

710. Turkmenistan expressed its appreciation for the active cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran with different human rights monitoring mechanisms of the United Nations such as the Human Rights Council and the treaties bodies.

711. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland expressed concern that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran had rejected one of the recommendations made by the United Kingdom, and only partial acceptance was given to the other. It was particularly concerned about the increase in executions in the past year and the executions of juvenile offenders. It also expressed concern about continued discrimination against minority religious groups, and harassment and persecutions of journalists and human rights defenders. It recommended that the Government invite the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran to review the human rights situation in the country.

712. While welcoming the release of certain human rights and civil rights activists, the United States of America noted with deep concern the large number of activists and other prisoners of conscience still imprisoned. It urged the country to respect fair trial guarantees in accordance with its international obligations and commitments, and pursuant to the rights enshrined in its Constitution. It renewed its call on the country to: end the harassment and persecution of journalists and demonstrate its commitment to freedom of expression; uphold its religious freedom commitments and obligations; and release those imprisoned for their religious beliefs. It expressed disappointment that the issue of allowing the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran to visit the country and guaranteeing him access to appropriate officials, facilities and prisoners had not been addressed.

713. Uzbekistan commended that the Islamic Republic of Iran adopted most of the recommendations, including those presented by Uzbekistan. It believed that the implementation of the accepted recommendations would help strengthen the national human rights protection system. Uzbekistan wished the Islamic Republic of Iran success in its further efforts to promote and protect human rights.

714. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expressed satisfaction on the efforts made to achieve the MDGs, most of them having been achieved before 2015. It noted that the imposition of unilateral coercive sanctions was contrary to international law, and against the most basic rights of the Iranian people. It also noted the seriousness and commitment, with which the country had addressed this issue, and the second UPR, the most important mechanism of the Human Rights Council.

715. Afghanistan was pleased with the acceptance of Afghanistan's recommendation regarding the protection of refugee rights in compliance with internationally recognized norms and standards. It also expressed its appreciation for the hosting of Afghan refugees.

716. Algeria noted the renewed commitment to the UPR mechanism and the acceptance of a large number of recommendations. It commended the acceptance of the two recommendations made by Algeria on the development of an environment favouring an autonomous civil society and the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children. It encouraged the Islamic Republic of Iran to pursue efforts to promote and protect human rights.

717. Armenia valued that the national minorities, including the Armenian minorities continued to freely exercise their cultural and religious rights. It also appreciated that its own recommendation regarding policies and initiatives aimed at the promotion of dialogue of cooperation and tolerance between different cultures and religions of the national minorities was accepted. It also appreciated the acceptance of its recommendation regarding the expansion and promotion of human rights education and training programmes.

### 3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

718. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 10 other stakeholders made statements.

719. In a joint statement, Lawyers for Lawyers underlined the fact that all lawyers are fully entitled to the benefits of the right to a fair trial that human rights treaties provide. It congratulated President Rouhani for stating that “a lawyer should be immune from any prosecution for carrying out its professional duty”. It also drew attention to the draft-law currently under review in the country providing rules for lawyers. It recommended that the draft law be carefully tested against the provisions of the UN’s Basic Principles and modified accordingly.

720. Baha’i International Community stated that Baha’is remained deprived of the most back rights to which an Iranian citizen is entitled, let alone the right to profess his or her own religion. It also remained hopeful that the Government would choose to demonstrate the high regard for the UPR. It further stated that the injustices and discrimination perpetrated against the Baha’is are numerous that if the Government was truly committed to stand by its words, it could begin by taking relatively easy steps such as allowing Baha’i students unrestrained access to higher education.

721. Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik regretted Iran’s refusal to accept the recommendations to ratify CAT, CEDAW, ICCPR-OP2, and to ban capital punishment. It reiterated its concerns from the first cycle UPR about political executions, public executions and juvenile executions. Sudwind also expressed concern about violations of freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, freedom of religion and belief, discrimination against women, LGBT and ethnic and religious minorities.

722. Iman Ali’s Popular Students Relief Society noted that many displaced and refugee persons had become deprived of gaining their rights. It stated that the Bureau of Alien and Foreign Immigrant Affairs in cooperation with UN agencies and NGOs have had a positive role in alleviating the problem. It highlighted the fact that due to international sanctions and inflation, the economic situation of middle and lower-income families has deteriorated. As a result, various forms of child labour and exploitation had intensified. It also expressed concern about the high rate of drug addiction, which caused numerous social problems such as domestic violence and trafficking.

723. International Lesbian and Gay Association emphasized on the four-fold increase in LGBT rights-related recommendations since the first UPR cycle and expressed grave concern regarding the on-going human rights violations of the Iranian LGBT individuals. It drew attention to how individuals had been arrested, harassed and persecuted for talking publicly about homosexuality or bisexuality, and to the Government ban of all publication of such issues in the media. It also stated that despite repeated demands by various UN human rights mechanisms, the Iranian government has so far refused to acknowledge the human rights of the LGBT community members.

724. International Federation for Human Rights Leagues expressed concern about the ongoing deteriorating human rights situation over the past one and a half years, in particular repression of basic freedoms, discrimination against women, ethnic and religious minorities, and denial of due process for prisoners of conscience, including journalists and human rights defenders. It also expressed concern about the increasing number of executions, and the death penalty, which continues to be used against religious and ethnic minorities, political dissidents and juvenile offenders. It further expressed concern about threats and arbitrary arrests of those who speak out for human rights. In addition, it noted that the country continued to refuse to cooperate with special procedures such as the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran.



725. Article 19 welcomed recommendations regarding the death penalty. It also welcomed recommendations related to guaranteeing freedom of speech and emphasized the need to stop arrests, prosecutions and sanctions of individuals for expressing views and opinions. It drew attention to the fact that more than 30 journalists remained in prison, and to the continued harassment and arrest of human rights defenders. It called upon States to increase efforts to hold the Islamic Republic of Iran accountable and urged the Islamic Republic of Iran to show through real reform its commitment to protecting freedom of expression.

726. Prevention Association of Social Harms highlighted a number of factors the international community need to consider for contributing to promotion and protection of human rights in different countries, namely universality, an impartial approach to assessment of human rights situations, avoidance of politicizing human rights issues and application of a problem solving approach based on negotiations and dialogues.

727. In a joint statement, Women's Human Rights International Association drew attention to the troubling large number of executions carried out in the country last year, including political prisoners and juveniles. It stated that even though blinding, amputations, flogging and stoning are prohibited by international law, such barbaric acts were carried out by the Islamic Republic of Iran. It also raised concerns regarding the situation of women, bringing attention to the fact that a wave of acid attacks were carried out against women who did not fully obey to the dress code.

728. Advocates for Human Rights noted the alarming situation of the death penalty in the Islamic Republic of Iran. It noted that most of those executed were convicted of charges such as drug-related offences, not the most serious crimes. It highlighted that several peaceful activists were executed after convictions on vague charges such as "corruption on earth". It further noted reports of torture, forced confessions, and lack of access to counsel in capital cases. In addition, it expressed concern about juvenile executions.

#### **4. Concluding remarks of the State under review**

729. The President stated that, based on the information provided, out of 291 recommendations received, 130 enjoy the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran while 161 are noted.

730. On the death penalty and the recommendations for its abolition, the Islamic Republic of Iran stressed that there was neither a global consensus nor legal obligation for the abolition of the death penalty. The death penalty strictly defined by law is applied for the most serious crimes, and including large-scale drug trafficking that are carried out in conjunction with terrorist activities.

731. Regarding freedom of religion and the issue of minorities, it stated that per capita space for worship and performance of religious rituals for religious minorities is twice the size for Muslims. Christians have more than 250 churches. Moreover, their religious sites are renovated and repaired through public budget.

732. Article 64 of the Constitution also stipulates that Zoroastrians and Jews will each elect one representative; Assyrian and Chaldean Christians will jointly elect one representative; and Christians elect three representatives. Hence, they have guaranteed seats.

733. Regarding journalists, it emphasized that its society is one based on legitimate freedoms. In case of commission of an offence, everyone is treated equally before the law regardless of employment status. It categorically rejected all allegations concerning mistreatment with the members of press and media. It also stressed that there were no political and conscience prisoners in the country.

734. The Islamic Republic of Iran concluded by saying that the country itself has also been the victim of human rights violations from the very beginning of the Islamic Revolution. Despite all the atrocities, its firm resolve to promote human rights has not been shaken. As a result of acts of terrorism, about 17,000 innocent human beings have been assassinated. More than 200,000 were martyred and 700,000 wounded in the eight-year war that was imposed on the country, including 13,000 martyred due to use of chemical weapons and 100,000 wounded in this way. More than 4,000 law enforcement forces have been killed in the fight against drug trafficking. Moreover, widespread violations of the rights of the Iranian people as a result of application of inhuman and illegal sanctions are also another example of the measures which have been used against the country.

735. The Islamic Republic of Iran, while being firmly committed to its international human rights obligations, is prepared to share its experiences and lessons learned with other countries.

### **Iraq**

736. The review of Iraq was held on 3 November 2014 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Iraq in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/IRQ/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/IRQ/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/IRQ/3).

737. At its 41st meeting, on 19 March 2015, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Iraq (see section C below).

738. The outcome of the review of Iraq comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/28/14), the views of Iraq concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (*see also A/HRC/28/14/Add.1*).

### **1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome**

739. The delegation appreciated the interest that the Council showed in the Iraqi report. Iraq informed the council that the Iraqi government gave special attention to the recommendations it received during at the second cycle Universal Periodic Review. The Iraqi delegation said that, in its decree no. 107 of 2015, the Council of Ministers approved the majority of the recommendations, and affirmed that the implementation of these recommendations was part of the 2013-2017 national action plan on human rights. The purpose of this Plan is to improve the human rights situation and integrate human rights in the general policy of the State. The plan is a tool that ensures sound management, good governance. It also strengthens the rule of law; promotes tolerance, harmony and respect for cultural, religious and national diversity and promotes national cohesion, education, health, decent housing and outlines social services programs. It includes measures on access to justice; raising awareness of human rights principles within the government and in the wider community. According to the plan this can be achieved by encouraging organizations and citizens to play a more active role in promoting human rights and in protecting and

promoting the rights of women, children, minorities and vulnerable groups. The delegation reasserted that it took measures to mobilize domestic and international resources through technical cooperation programs with partners.

740. The delegation stated that it received 229 recommendations during the second UPR cycle, in October 2014, and set up a National Committee to consider the recommendations and take appropriate action thereon.

741. The delegation informed the Council that the Committee held several meetings and met with a number of civil society organizations and human rights defenders to adopt a common vision on the implementation of the 175 recommendations that the Government accepted. The government was unable to accept the remaining 54 recommendations because of the political and social conditions prevailing in the country. The delegation noted that the vast majority of the accepted recommendations were already part of the government program of action including the following: Ensuring accountability at all levels; adopting performance indicators for the legislative, executive and judiciary powers; upholding the principle of separation of powers; prevent political influence of the executive institutions in achieving political or personal gains; empowering NHRI; restrict arms to the State only in accordance with the Constitution; security forces perform its duties in protecting all its citizens; expand the coverage of social security and pension systems; cooperation and coordination with the Council of Representatives in the areas of legislation and oversight and committing to the basic principles of the agreement between the unity government political parties.

742. According to the Iraqi the 54 recommendations were not accepted because of the complex and difficult political and security situation caused by Daesh terrorist attacks and its control of a number of regions and governorates of Iraq drawing on the resources of the State institutions involved in the fight against terrorism.

743. Iraq maintains its sovereign right to adopt a legal system that is in line with its international obligations. Iraq needs more time to enact the required legislations than the time proscribed in the unaccepted UPR recommendations.

744. The Iraqi government will however re-consider the recommendations that it did not accept before the review of the next report.

745. The delegation said that Iraq was reviewed by CEDAW, CERD CRC and its first and second Optional Protocols in 2014. In 2015, Iraq will submit its reports to CAT, CED, CESCR and ICCRP.

746. The delegation stated that Iraq had been fighting Daesh terrorism since last June. Iraq was able to retake parts of the Iraqi territory from Daesh. The delegation affirmed that Daesh committed barbaric crimes that could amount to genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in the form of massacres and mass executions of prisoners and unarmed prisoner soldiers, clergies, children and women who rejected their ideology. Daesh has committed enforced displacement crimes against Yazidis and other ethnic minorities and executed people indiscriminately. It has tortured and sexually abused women and children and practiced forced marriages. They also demolished shrines and places of worship, cultural heritage, sabotaging archaeological cities of Nimrod and Alhadar. The delegation informed the Council on the massacre of Spiker.

747. The delegation stated that the Iraqis were all united in the fight against terrorism, and are determined to stopping the expansion of Daesh, and liberating large the areas that fell under its control in the provinces of Diyala, Kirkuk and Salah al-Din. This required the government to adopt an emergency action plan to address the terrorist crimes, and meet the IDPs needs in particular.

748. The delegation explained that the conditions that Iraq had gone through before and after 2003, was unprecedented, in terms of insecurity, political and social instability and had lasting effect on children.

749. The delegation outlined several legislations, including one on human trafficking. A National Strategy to combat violence against women and a strategy for the Advancement of Women were adopted. A National Action Plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security was also adopted. With regard to women's political empowerment, measures have been taken to increase women's in politics, through a quota system. The delegation stated that Iraq had achieved a remarkable progress in the field of the advancement of women, through the adoption of several national strategies, public policies and programs, including poverty alleviation strategy, National Development Plan for the years 2010-2013 and 2014-2017, the National Human Rights Plan, strategy against violence against women, in Iraq and Kurdistan. It also carried out a series of women's programs, including: gender-sensitive budgets for five ministerial sectors supported by UN-WOMEN, opened legal aid offices in collaboration with UNDP, developed Family Protection Units supported by UNFPA and established a Women's Development Fund.

750. The delegation talked about the Government's interest in the legislative aspect of the protection of human rights in general, including the rights of women. This was demonstrated by the adoption of several laws, such as the Anti-Human Trafficking Act no. 28 of 2012, and the Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs Act no. 38 of 2013.

751. The delegation informed the Council that terrorist attacks on Iraq caused displacement of around 2.6 million persons, in various governorates in Iraq. The government allocated funds and emergency aid in coordination with UNAMI and other relevant international organizations, such as WHO providing health services, especially for women, children and Persons with disabilities.

752. In conclusion, the delegation expressed its full commitment to human rights international mechanisms, and called on the international community to provide the necessary assistance to Iraq in its fight against terrorism and in its defense of its people, land and cultural heritage. The delegation also called for technical assistance to help Iraq promote and protect the human rights of all its citizens.

## **2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

753. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Iraq, 17 delegations made statements. The statements of the delegations that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints<sup>45</sup> are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council, if available.

754. United Arab Emirates appreciated the acceptance of Iraq to the majority of recommendations of the UPR, and the adoption of inter commitments voluntarily. The delegation has presented a comprehensive overview of the political will of the government, gave new impetus to human rights and the advancement of the country, and set up a working group to follow up the implementation of the accepted recommendations, despite the difficult circumstances they are facing. It trusted the ability of the Government in the face of current challenges.

755. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the acceptance of 175 recommendations and the commitment which the Prime Minister made in holding

<sup>45</sup> <https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/28thSession/Pages/Calendar.aspx>.

those responsible for human rights abuses to account. They considered that it was a vital commitment, if it was translated into action. It urged Iraq to improve its justice system to ensure an equitable treatment of all people. It pointed out that the ratification of OP-CAT was important to increase respect for human rights within the police, security forces. It strongly encouraged the abolition of death penalty.

756. United States of America expressed its concern of the dire human rights situation in Iraq and underlined the Iraqi government's own obligations to protect human rights and uphold rule of law. It welcomed the Prime Minister "zero tolerance" policy for human rights abuses. It reiterated its recommendation that Iraq direct resources and political capital towards the implementation of its National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. It further encouraged the government to continue pursuing political and legislative reforms, including efforts to amend its anti-terrorism law. It urged strengthening control mechanism over the military and other security forces and eliminate the presence of militia and armed groups.

757. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela stated that the elements that explained the situation of Iraq were very complex and diverse, directly linked with the illegal military invasion in 2003, the genesis of the violence that had taken the life of hundreds of thousands of persons in the country. It added that the community of nations should give the sincere and genuine support required by Iraq to overcome the spiral of violence. It stated that Iraq required strengthening its national capacity on human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, and encouraged it to continue advancing towards an urgent and sustainable pacific solution to the crisis with safeguard to its territory and with the assistance and international solidarity required by Iraq.

758. Yemen appreciated the detailed presentation on the efforts made by the government in the area of human rights. It noted that despite the challenges and difficulties facing Iraq the Government adopted measures to deal with those challenges including those taken to prevent the security conditions and confronting terrorism to achieve security and stability in moving towards democracy and development. It commended Iraq for accepting a large number of recommendations in the area of achieving stability.

759. Afghanistan thanked Iraq for their update on the situation of human rights. They commended their commitment to human rights despite the immense security challenges. Afghanistan welcomed the establishment of the High Commission for Human Rights and encouraged ensuring its independence in accordance with Paris Principles. It trusted that Iraq would further intensify its efforts to implement the recommendations accepted in the coming years.

760. Algeria congratulated Iraq for its efforts in the field of human rights and for the achievements made. It commended Iraq for its support to the majority of recommendations, and especially for its support to the Algerian recommendation on development plans and programs, particularly on infrastructure and health services. It pointed out that the acceptance of a large number of recommendations reflected the importance Iraq attached to the promotion of human rights. It understood that some recommendations were difficult to accept due to the current difficult security conditions.

761. Belgium was shocked by Daesh attacks on civilians, as well as by the deteriorating human rights situation as reported, while expressing its solidarity with the Iraqi people. Belgium welcomed Iraq's acceptance of its two recommendations on inviting the Special Rapporteur on minorities and on controlling hatred speeches and discourses against ethnic and religious groups and take measures to combat that and prosecute perpetrators. Belgium regretted that recommendations on ratifying the ICC and on a moratorium on death penalty were not supported. Despite security issues, Belgium reiterated that death penalty was not

appropriate and called for abolishing it. It urged ratifying the Rome Statute on ICC as an appropriate way to avoid impunity of crimes against humanity.

762. Burkina Faso congratulated Iraq on the presentation of its second report to the UPR. It underlined how Iraq review showed its willingness to improve the human rights situation in the country and congratulated them on the accepted recommendations. Further, it wished Iraq success in implementing them.

763. China recognized the efforts made to overcome domestic difficulties, as well as the active and constructive participation in UPR. China appreciated the acceptance of most of the recommendations, including its own recommendations, on undertaking a continuous and resolute fight against terrorism, to provide security safeguard for its citizens and on facilitating political dialogue and national reconciliation, creating condition for economic development, promoting economic, social and cultural rights for Iraqi people. China wished a return to peace and stability through the national reconciliation, sustainable social and economic development and constant progress in HR course.

764. Cuba reiterated its acknowledgement for the advances achieved by Iraq in the implementation of the 135 accepted recommendations. It highlighted the efforts done by Iraq to overcome the situation into which they were forced by interests that have nothing to do with the promotion and protection of human rights of the Iraqi people. It stated that Iraq should continue the defence of its sovereignty and integrity without external interferences.

765. Djibouti welcomed the efforts made by Iraq to promote and protect human rights despite the difficult situation confronting it. It encouraged Iraq to continue its efforts to strengthen and promote human rights, particularly with respect to vulnerable people.

766. Egypt congratulated Iraq for accepting 76 percent of the recommendations including those presented by Egypt which reflected the commitment in protecting and promoting human rights. It welcomed Iraq declaration on forming a national working group to implement the recommendations of the UPR and other Treaty bodies. It commended the Government's ability despite all challenges and difficulties in establishing different human rights institutions and adopted a number of laws, including the establishment of NHRI. Hosting more than 2 million Syrian refugees was an evidence of Iraq commitment to human rights. It called on the international community to continue supporting Iraq in upholding human rights.

767. India commended Iraq on the receptive and constructive manner in which it participated in the UPR mechanism. It stated that it is encouraging to note that Iraq has accepted as many as 175 recommendations, including all three recommendations made by its delegation. It believed that Iraq has gained much from its participation in the UPR and that it would continue with its efforts to implement the accepted recommendations in the coming years.

768. The Islamic Republic of Iran appreciated that the majority of recommendations were accepted including those made by Iran. Iran commended Iraq efforts to promote and protect Human Rights, while condemning terrorist and Takfiri extremist activities that lead to human rights violations. It commended the adaptation of the National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women as well as several laws on human trafficking and the establishment of the National High Commission for human rights.

769. Ireland expressed its appreciation of Iraq's acceptance of its recommendation to endeavour to protect the security and rights of persons belonging to minorities, bring to justice those that violate their rights and ensure a proportional representation in governance and decision-making bodies. It encouraged Iraq to submit a mid-term report on its implementation of accepted recommendations. However, it noted with regret that its other recommendation on the removal of article 128 of the penal code, on honourable motives as

a mitigating excuse, had not been accepted while urging Iraq to consider making further advances in this area and take action against violence against women in the name of “honour”.

770. Jordan welcomed the valuable information that was presented on the recommendations by the Working Group, as Iraq accepted 175 recommendations out of 229 including those made by Jordan. Jordan considered that this reflected the commitment of Iraq towards promoting and protecting all human rights despite the difficult circumstances that they are going through in the country.

### **3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders**

771. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Iraq, 7 other stakeholders made statements.

772. Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik regretted that the addendum document was only released in Arabic and right before the UPR session, which made the review difficult. It regretted that some fundamental recommendations did not enjoy Iraq’s support, such as the second optional protocol to the ICCPR and the withdrawal of the Jaafari law on child marriage. It raised concerns over the situation of Iranian refugees and pilgrims in Iraq and expressed the importance to follow up on the status of women and children in conflict regions. It expected that torture of LGBT persons would be stopped promptly.

773. Minority Rights Group addressed concern regarding the on-going armed conflict that exposed millions of civilians to serious human rights violations, as well as over the issue of ethnic and religious minorities. It welcomed Iraq’s commitment to strengthening the legal protection of minorities and combatting discrimination, as well as to improve the human rights situation for IDPs. However, it regretted that the Iraqi government had rejected recommendations on acceding to the Rome Statute of the ICC, as this would have demonstrated Iraq’s commitment to conform to international law.

774. Women's Human Rights International Association and International Educational Development stressed its concerns over the lack of available information regarding any investigation into the massacre that occurred on 1<sup>st</sup> September in Camp Ashraf and later on Camp Liberty. The investigations appeared to fall short of basic standards and principles of independence and impartiality. It stated that a letter from three HRC mandate holders was addressed to the Iraqi government on 6 August 2014, pointing out to the lack of proper investigation, with no reply. It called upon the Council to support the expert mandate holders and initiate a full investigation.

775. The Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies brought to the attention of the Council the unprecedented suffering of ethnic and religious minorities in Iraq, concerned about the systematic targeted atrocities by Daesh which amounted to international crimes. It reminded the Government of its responsibility in protecting minorities, and in protecting human rights to all. It noted the continued violations against the Yazidis, with little attention given by the Government to address those violations, or making efforts to amend legislation to protect minorities, or ensuring that serious investigations are conducted to achieve justice for victims. It noted that 85% of Yazidis had been displaced and thousands were killed, 1,500 children were trained at the hands of Daesh, 5,000 women had been kidnapped, sold into slavery, while those freed did not receive rehabilitation.

776. Amnesty International remained concerned about past and present human rights abuses carried out with impunity. It urged addressing problems of thousands of IDPs and to rein in Shi’a militias, holding them accountable for the abuses they committed, including abductions, and killings of Sunni civilian men. It urged Iraq to act on recommendations calling to eliminate the militias and other armed groups fighting alongside government forces. It pointed to a pattern of extrajudicial executions by government forces, urged acting

on recommendations concerning air strikes against ISIS-controlled areas, killing and injuring dozens of civilians, and to respect international humanitarian and human rights law during military operations. It called on Iraq to stop the use of torture, as it was also used to extract confessions leading in some cases to sentence individuals in grossly unfair trials, to death, and urged ratifying OP-CAT and establish a moratorium on death penalty.

777. Human Rights Now condemned the grave human rights violations committed by ISIL, but expressed at the same time concerns over the widespread and systematic violations committed by the government and its security forces (ISF) against its own citizens. It considered that lack of rule of law, discriminative attacks and prevailing human rights violations committed by the government and ISF significantly contribute to a chain of retaliations. It urged Iraq to take measures to stop unlawful attacks, protect civilians during conflict, conduct investigations of past human rights violations and ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC and appoint a Rapporteur under item 4.

778. Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme main concern was related to the socio-instability in the country due to the occupation by terrorist extremist groups, and how to bring Iraq out of this spiral of violence. It called on Iraq to give more attention to protecting children, women and religious minorities, as well as repealing the Jafaari law and capital punishment. It also encouraged efforts to combat corruption and illiteracy in rural areas. It called for support by the international community to help Iraq regain its sovereignty.

#### 4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

779. The President stated that based on the information provided out of 229 recommendations received, 175 enjoy the support of Iraq, while 54 are noted.

780. The delegation concluded by thanking the Council and all delegations for their statements and welcomed the support and readiness to assist expressed in most statements particularly the NGOs. Iraq is willing to consider all allegations of human rights violations with a view to addressing them. The delegation denied the existence of the Jaafari law in Iraq.

#### Madagascar

781. The review of Madagascar was held on 3 November 2014 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Madagascar in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/MDG/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/MDG/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/MDG/3).

782. At its 41st meeting, on 19 March 2015, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Madagascar (see section C below).

783. The outcome of the review of Madagascar comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/28/13), the views of Madagascar concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (*see also A/HRC/28/13/Add.1*).



**1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome**

784. Madagascar stated that during the course of the interactive dialogue in November 2014, 160 recommendations were submitted of which 139 accepted and 21 postponed. Postponed recommendations were related to accession of Madagascar to legal instruments to which it was not yet a party; filling out public buildings with infrastructure adapted to persons with disabilities; and the promotion and protection of freedom of expression and freedom of the press. Replies and final position of Madagascar vis-à-vis these recommendations were embodied in the addendum report (A/HRC/28/13/Add.1).

785. Madagascar indicated that after submitting its report in November 2014, measures were immediately adopted upon the return of the delegation to the country. During the celebration of the Day to commemorate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 2014, a meeting to consider accepted and non-accepted recommendations was organized with the involvement of members of the Government, representatives of Parliament, and of civil society as well as technical and financial partners.

786. During the course of that meeting, a draft was prepared for the implementation of recommendations emanating from the UPR. Legislative and institutional measures were adopted. These measures included the Act No. 2014-040 of 20 January 2015 against human trafficking. This Act covers all situations of trafficking both national and transnational. This trafficking may be of sexual nature, domestic work, begging, modern slavery, organ trafficking, forced marriage or illegal adoption. Madagascar can also try crimes committed by its national abroad involving trafficking.

787. In terms of institutional reforms, the delegation referred to the establishment of the Independent National Human Rights Commission through the adoption of the decree of 3 February 2015 embodying rules of procedure. After the election of its members, this body will begin its activities in line with the Paris Principles. It will receive complaints of violations of human rights. It also has competence to undertake visits to any place of detention. Madagascar also referred to the establishment of the National Bureau to combat human trafficking under a decree adopted on 3 March 2015. The challenge was to translate all these institutions into practice.

788. In addition and in line with the recommendation asking Madagascar to adopt a National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking, a National Plan for this purpose was adopted on 6 March 2015. It revolved around 4 strategies, namely prevention, protection, criminal prosecution and cooperation in compliance with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/293 relating to the World Plan of Action to Combat Human Trafficking.

789. With the support of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and for the purpose of implementing UPR recommendations and also those of treaty bodies as well as of Special Rapporteurs, a National Plan for implementation of such recommendations has been drafted and will be adopted shortly. This Plan included actions for implementation with performance indicators and a timetable from 2015 to 2018 to allow Madagascar to submit its third national report to the Human Rights Council in the context of the UPR.

790. Madagascar underlined that the challenges were to implement as many recommendations as possible and to submit an interim report in 2016 and the third report in 2018. To this end, Madagascar intended to maintain and step up dialogue and cooperation with all human rights mechanisms. Madagascar finally called on technical and financial partners to work with it implementing all recommendations.

**2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

791. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Madagascar, 16 delegations made statements.

792. Ethiopia commended Madagascar for engaging constructively with the Human Rights Council and for having accepted significant number of recommendations. It also commended Madagascar for the establishment of a national agency coordinating microfinance to support women by providing training, maternal and family planning, children's education and management of income generation activities. It encouraged Madagascar to strengthen its national human rights mechanisms to implement the accepted recommendations. Ethiopia also called on the United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms and Special Funds and Programmes to provide technical and capacity building assistance at the request of Madagascar and on the basis of its priority.

793. Gabon welcomed the commitment of Madagascar to implementing the recommendations that it has accepted during its second UPR, including those made by Gabon. It recognized that significant measures were taken in promoting and protecting human rights in Madagascar despite a major political crisis, in particular measures taken to combat child labour and to help street children with the support from the International Labour Office and the United Nations Children Fund. Gabon encouraged Madagascar to continue efforts to implement the accepted recommendations and called on the international community to support Madagascar in this endeavour.

794. Kuwait appreciated the efforts made by Madagascar to implement the recommendations accepted during the UPR and tangible progress made since the review to fulfil its international commitments in the field of human rights. It commended Madagascar for the successful presidential and legislative elections held lately in the country and for the establishment of the Independent National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles in order to guarantee fundamental freedoms. Kuwait congratulated Madagascar on effective steps taken to reform the prison system in order to go from the principle of punishment to rehabilitation and that was through the regulation of workers in penal establishments.

795. Libya valued the positive developments and achievements in the area of human rights. It thanked Madagascar for accepting most of the recommendations from various countries, which reflected its commitments to cooperating with the UPR.

796. Mali commended the openness and spirit of dialogue with which Madagascar participated in the UPR process. In the same spirit, Madagascar has accepted many of the recommendations made among which those on improving living conditions for the population and promoting the rights of women and children. Mali particularly congratulated Madagascar for the ratification of many international legal instruments among which the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants Workers and Members of their Families. It called on the international community to continue supporting Madagascar in implementing the accepted recommendations in order to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

797. Sierra Leone noted with satisfaction that Madagascar had accepted their recommendations. It was confident that Madagascar will take necessary steps to implement the accepted recommendations. Sierra Leone applauded Madagascar for their constructive and transparent participation in the UPR process. It commended Madagascar for its numerous efforts to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

798. South Africa congratulated Madagascar on the successful review and the acceptance of a large number of recommendations, including those posed by South Africa. It welcomed

the strides undertaken by Madagascar, including recent efforts on ensuring food security, investment in social infrastructure and development projects, particularly on the realization of the right to health. South Africa further recognized that Madagascar had faced a serious political crisis which had reduced its ability to fulfil obligations under the Covenants it was party to and the realization of the MDGs. South Africa assured it would continue to support Madagascar in the context of its inclusive national reconciliation process and encouraged the international community to support Madagascar in its development path, including with the SADC partners. It encouraged Madagascar to continue efforts in tackling the constraints and challenges it faced.

799. The Sudan appreciated the acceptance of 139 recommendations and thanked Madagascar for the acceptance of the two Sudanese recommendations.

800. Togo welcomed the importance Madagascar gave to the UPR as well as the acceptance of almost all recommendations. It also called on the international community to accompany Madagascar in implementing accepted recommendations.

801. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela appreciated the efforts made by Madagascar in implementing its obligations notably with the creation of the Independent National Human Rights Commission and continued efforts to comply with the Paris Principles. It congratulated advances despite issues encountered. Venezuela encouraged strengthening social policies to improve the conditions of life of citizens in Madagascar with the international solidarity.

802. Algeria congratulated Madagascar on the acceptance of over 150 recommendations including Algeria's on continuing reforms of the judicial and penitentiary system as well as the fight against sexual exploitation of children. It encouraged continuing efforts in promoting and protecting human rights and wished Madagascar success for the implementation of the accepted recommendations.

803. Botswana noted the efforts undertaken by Madagascar to uphold the rule of law and democracy and applauded it for the peaceful and free presidential elections held in 2014. It commended Madagascar for the adoption of an Anti-Trafficking Bill providing a platform for the arrest and prosecution of persons involved in trafficking, and encouraged Madagascar to pass the Bill into law. It also encouraged Madagascar to finalize the National Action Plan intended to combat gender-based violence. Botswana applauded Madagascar's continued cooperation and engagement with special procedures and mandate holders over the last three years. It appreciated Madagascar's efforts in reducing the duration of pre-trial detention. The reform of the prison system, including the adoption of a bill that provided for alternative measures to detention was also appreciated.

804. China commended Madagascar for participating constructively to the UPR and its decision to accept most of the recommendations made during the UPR including China's recommendation. Madagascar committed to continue its efforts to reduce unemployment, poverty and stressed the protection and promotion of its people's economic, social and cultural rights. China also noted that Madagascar was developing special economic zones, industrial parks and communication infrastructures in order to increase its own capacity for development. China believed this would provide a solid basis for the comprehensive progress of the human rights cause in Madagascar.

805. Cote d'Ivoire thanked Madagascar for its attention to the recommendations made during the review. Cote d'Ivoire supported all of the efforts made by Madagascar to comply with international commitments and ensure the well-being of its people. Cote d'Ivoire encouraged Madagascar to consolidate the reforms it has undertaken to combat discrimination against women and protect children against abuse, trafficking in human beings, torture and ill-treatment, corruption and reforms undertaken in the judicial and

penitentiary systems. Cote d'Ivoire called on the international community to continue its cooperation with Madagascar and provide the necessary technical assistance.

806. Cuba was encouraged by the way Madagascar has worked to overcome the crisis that affected it which allowed better use of human rights of its population. Cuba thanked Madagascar for having accepted the recommendations made by it during the UPR. It emphasized the efforts made by Madagascar to combat poverty which has increased because of the crisis. Cuba reiterated its call to the international community and the United Nations System to continue to cooperate with Madagascar.

807. Djibouti welcomed the measures taken to restore civil and political rights. Djibouti encouraged Madagascar to continue combating poverty and protect the vulnerable groups of its population.

### **3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders**

808. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Madagascar, 6 other stakeholders made statements.

809. In a joint statement, Franciscans International, Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco, VIDES International and Apprentis d'Auteuil welcomed the support of Madagascar to a significant number of recommendations made during the UPR. They especially appreciated the support of recommendations to provide free education for all, particularly the commitment to addressing the girls and children who had dropped out of school during the political crisis. They strongly encouraged Madagascar to move forward and implement these recommendations. They also expressed concern about the protection of children in street situations, and called on Madagascar to develop a coherent and efficient child protection system. They welcomed Madagascar's intention to improve the civil registration service while pointing out the existing disparity between rural and urban areas, and the lower registration rates among the poorest households.

810. Action Canada for Population and Development commended Madagascar for accepting recommendations that call for the adoption of a national plan of action to combat sexual and gender-based violence, that criminalize marital rape, and that strengthen laws and their implementation on the trafficking of persons. It also applauded the acceptance by Madagascar of recommendations to prevent harmful practices as early forced marriages. Nevertheless, it requested that Madagascar take a number of additional actions to fully realize the right to health and the right to life of women, including access to sexual and reproductive health information services. It finally urged Madagascar to consider systematizing and making compulsory the implementation of comprehensive sexual education programs, for all age levels, focusing on how to avoid unwanted pregnancy.

811. Europe Third World Centre stated that the commitments undertaken by Madagascar under its UPR included the guarantee of freedom of opinion and expression. According to its information, this basic right continues to be violated in Madagascar where 80 radio stations forcibly closed by the transitional Government five years ago are not yet authorized to broadcast. In addition, journalists are threatened and even murdered. The Organization voiced its concern in relation to the cases of summary executions and collective punishment within the Military operations conducted in southern Madagascar against the cattle raiders. Centre Europe-Tiers Monde indicated that more than one thousand people were reportedly killed in this region since 2012 while other have fled as a result of terror exerted by security forces. Finally, Centre Europe-Tiers Monde called on Madagascar to consider inviting the Special Rapporteur on summary executions as to investigate these violations committed by the law enforcement agencies and armed groups as well as illicit arms trafficking.

812. Rencontre Africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme (RADDHO) congratulated Madagascar on the smooth organization of the legislative and presidential

elections, as well as the commitment undertaken to combat corruption which was poisoning the judicial system, the administration and the political class. It also commended the invitation extended to mandate holders, and the updating of periodic reports to treaty bodies. However, RADDHO expressed concern about poor conditions of detention, prisons overcrowding and cruel and inhuman treatments infringed on prisoners. It called on Madagascar to combat gender violence, child prostitution, sex tourism, trafficking in humans and violence committed by the law enforcement agencies. It also invited Madagascar to undertake courageous reforms in order systematically to eradicate certain harmful traditional practices which undermine human rights. Finally, it encouraged Madagascar to make efforts to reduce extreme poverty, illiteracy and destruction of fauna and flora.

813. Hope International stated that most of the recommendations accepted by Madagascar were on civil and political rights, and very few on economic, social and cultural rights - which were the major problem of the country - and only one recommendation concerned adequate standard of living. It indicated that the country was experiencing the worst natural disasters. Hope International added that Madagascar has moved from malnutrition to famine, which was ravaging the southern part and could affect the Capital where the growing number of internal displaced persons and homeless cannot receive basic supplies, as roads and bridges were damaged because of heavy rains and cyclones.

814. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom commended Madagascar for its participation in the UPR. It expressed concern about human insecurity and extrajudicial executions committed by the Police forces since 2012, particularly in southern areas rich in mineral resources. It stated that the Government had carried out massacres in this region through the operations called "Tandroka" and "Coup d'arret". Since 2012, the two operations have caused 1100 victims, according to the Press and the National Gendarmerie. It added that the security forces have enjoyed impunity in the commission of these crimes. It requested the opening of a credible and independent inquiry in the abuses committed by security forces during the two operations. It also encouraged Madagascar to allow the Special Rapporteur on summary executions to investigate the situation, to send a standing invitation to all mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, and to take appropriate measures to ensure human security.

#### **4. Concluding remarks of the State under review**

815. The President stated that based on the information provided, out of 160 received recommendations, 159 enjoy the support of Madagascar while 1 is noted.

816. The delegation noticed during the interactive dialogue a climate of objectivity that was conducive to transparency and improved application of measures inherent to improving human rights situation on the ground in Madagascar. The observations, requests for clarification and comments made by States and non-governmental organizations have been recorded. Madagascar was able to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the country in promoting and protecting human rights.

817. Madagascar reaffirmed its total openness to taking up the challenge to pursuing its policies and programs in the area of human rights, in particular by implementing the recommendations emanating from various human rights mechanisms. It underlined that progress has certainly been made or initiated but so much remained to be done.

818. Madagascar undertook to make efforts to implementing all recommendations. However, technical and financial support by partners would be a helpful addition to improving the general human rights situation and thus contribute to development since it

was said without development there can be no promotion and protection of human rights but without the latter, there cannot be sustainable development.

### **Slovenia**

819. The review of Slovenia was held on 4 November 2014 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Slovenia in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/SVN/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/SVN/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/SVN/3).

820. At its 41st meeting, on 19 March 2015, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Slovenia (see section C below).

821. The outcome of the review of Slovenia comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/28/15), the views of Slovenia concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (*see also A/HRC/28/15/Add.1*).

### **1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome**

822. The delegation of Slovenia thanked the members of the troika for their work in support of the review, and all the delegations for their constructive engagement. It attached great importance to the UPR process, which was seen as an important mechanism that helped strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights at the national level.

823. In response to the recommendations received, the delegation stated that:

824. All recommendations were carefully examined by members of a working group from all government ministries who prepared a proposal of reactions for the consideration of the Government. The Cabinet of ministers then took the final decision regarding Slovenia's official response which had been made available on the UPR website.

825. The review and the recommendations received were discussed in the competent bodies of the National Assembly (Commission for Petitions, Human Rights and Equal Opportunities and Committee on Foreign Policy) and with the Human Rights Ombudsperson. The Government also informed civil society organizations about the UPR review and the recommendations received. To ensure full transparency towards the public, the documentation related to the UPR of Slovenia had been translated to Slovenian and made available through the web page of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

826. The delegation provided additional information on some of the topics addressed during the review:

827. On gender equality and women's rights, the delegation reported that Slovenia ratified the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in the beginning of February.

828. The government was also preparing a new national resolution on equal opportunities of women and men 2015–2020 that foresaw additional measures to tackle gender

inequalities in Slovenia from different perspectives, such as economic independence, work-family balance, gender stereotypes, social inclusion, health, participation in decision-making, violence against women, and foreign policy and development cooperation.

829. Regarding trafficking in human rights, the delegation stated the issue was very important to Slovenia as a country of origin, transit and final destination of trafficking, although the numbers recorded were relatively small. In January, a new comprehensive strategy to combat trafficking in human beings – a biannual action plan – had been adopted by the government. The action plan included provisions which will contribute to the implementation of recommendations on trafficking received during the review.

830. Regarding the Roma, the delegation asserted there are approximately 10.000 Roma living in Slovenia and measures to address their needs were included in many sectorial policies and laws. It recognized that members of the Roma community sometimes found themselves in an underprivileged position and may be more exposed to discrimination, and confirmed that steps were being taken to address this situation.

831. The government was preparing a new National Programme of Measures for Roma for the period 2016–2021, taking into account also the UPR recommendations received on this topic. Representatives of the Roma were included in the preparation of the programme of measures.

832. On the Equality Body, the delegation highlighted that equality was a constitutional right in Slovenia. Measures to combat discrimination were included in various national policies and in legislation. The government was committed to strengthening the equality protection mechanisms and was currently considering different options for this.

833. Regarding LGBTI, the delegation reported that the National Assembly had adopted amendments to the Law on Marriage and Family Relations which granted equal status to same-sex and heterosexual unions.

834. The delegation addressed then how Slovenia intended to proceed with the monitoring of implementation of accepted recommendations:

835. The interdepartmental working group that had been active already in the preparatory phase of the UPR process and in the assessment of the recommendations received would also monitor progress made with regard to the implementation of recommendations. Regular reporting on implementation would also be made to the Inter-departmental Commission on Human Rights, which is the national body that coordinates Slovenia's reporting to international human rights mechanisms. Both bodies will regularly report to the government.

836. Furthermore, the delegation announced that Slovenia would be preparing once again a voluntary mid-term report on the implementation of recommendations.

837. Finally, the delegation reiterated Slovenia's full support to the UPR process. It added that this unique peer-review mechanism was instrumental to strengthening respect for and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms at all levels. As a candidate for membership in the Human Rights Council for the period 2016–2018, Slovenia was pledging to work for the advancement of human rights in international human rights forums, including through active engagement in the UPR process.

## **2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

838. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Slovenia, 8 delegations made statements.

839. Sierra Leone thanked Slovenia for their informative update and noted that although it had received several recommendations, Slovenia was yet to favourably adopt any of the recommendations put forward by Sierra Leone and other delegations during the second UPR cycle. It stated it was commendable that Slovenia had set up robust legal and institutional frameworks to address human rights and encouraged it to intensify efforts to combat all forms of violence against women and children.

840. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela stated it had offered recommendations to Slovenia among others to intensify efforts to combat stigmatization and discrimination against ethnic minorities, in particular the Roma population and migrants. It was pleased that the Government had accepted most of the recommendations, and highlighted their willingness to continue collaborating with the Government of Slovenia in the framework of the Council in order to continue advancing in the human rights situation.

841. China commended Slovenia's constructive participation in the UPR and its comprehensive and positive response to the recommendations as well as its decision to accept the majority of these recommendations. It appreciated Slovenia's acceptance of China's recommendations to continue strengthening the protection of persons with disabilities to fundamentally improve their livelihood through measures such as increasing employment opportunities and to increase educational inputs for Roma and other minority groups.

842. Côte d'Ivoire expressed support for all steps undertaken by the Government of Slovenia in order to meet its international obligations; and encouraged it to continue its efforts to promote gender equality and the fight against violence against women, mitigate the impact of austerity measures on the most vulnerable population, preventing trafficking in human beings, and combating all forms of racial, ethnic and religious discrimination. It called on the Government to continue its cooperation with the international community.

843. The Council of Europe stated discrimination and social exclusion of Roma was a challenge Slovenia was facing. It acknowledged impressive achievements for improving this situation while remaining deeply concerned about the socio-economic conditions of many Roma. It mentioned discrimination of national minorities as another challenge, as prejudices and stereotypes against persons belonging to the "new national communities" and the German-speaking community were persistent. It noted corruption as a third challenge and invited the Government to ensure a better implementation of the corruption prevention legal framework. It also welcomed measures already taken to address all these challenges and congratulated Slovenia on the ratification of the COE Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence and the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse.

844. Cuba highlighted advances and achievements of Slovenia in human rights, while remaining concerned about the effects of the economic crisis on the economic and social rights of the population. On this account the delegation thanked Slovenia for accepting the two recommendations made by Cuba, which it considered already implemented or in process of implementation.

845. The Islamic Republic of Iran took note of the Government's decision to accept recommendations submitted by them to combat racial discrimination and racist attacks, particularly against the Roma, to prevent ethnically motivated crimes and to prevent and address all forms of violence against women and children. It shared recommendations from other states to combat discrimination against children belonging to national minorities especially Roma children, and to have equal opportunities in access to quality education, combat trafficking in persons and provide protection to victims of trafficking.

846. Kuwait thanked Slovenia's comprehensive presentation on the State's position and steps taken to implement the recommendations as well as the developments achieved since



its last UPR. It welcomed steps undertaken to keep up with its reporting obligations to treaty-bodies and steps undertaken in regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Slovenia has taken steps to strengthen its institutional framework on human rights and protect social rights reducing poverty and upholding fundamental rights and freedoms.

### 3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

847. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Slovenia, 1 other stakeholder made a statement.

848. Amnesty International welcomed Slovenia's acceptance of numerous recommendations on the human rights of Roma and urged it to implement them without delay, including those considered to be already implemented. It called on Slovenia to take immediate and concrete measures to combat all forms of discrimination against Roma and ensure their equal enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights. It welcomed a recent Parliamentary Committee decision directing the Government to prepare a strategic framework to improve the situation of Roma and stated that this framework should be developed through a truly inclusive, gender-sensitive and participatory process. It urged the Government to change its approach and to invite all relevant stakeholders to engage in the drafting process. It also urged Slovenia to guarantee the right to adequate housing and called on it to implement recommendations on the rights of Roma children.

### 4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

849. The President stated that based on the information provided out of 163 recommendations received, 142 enjoyed the support of Slovenia, while 21 were noted.

850. The delegation of Slovenia thanked all speakers for their comments and remarks and affirmed it had taken due note and would convey them to its Government for its due consideration.

851. The Government of Slovenia was committed to implementing accepted recommendations. Some measures in that regard had already been adopted, and Slovenia was committed to taking further concrete steps.

852. Finally, the delegation affirmed it was looking forward to the next review in the 3rd UPR cycle and hoped for the continuation of fruitful and constructive dialogue.

#### **Egypt**

853. The review of Egypt was held on 5 November 2014 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Egypt in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/EGY/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/EGY /2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/EGY/3).

854. At its 42nd meeting, on 20 March 2015, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Egypt (see section C below).

855. The outcome of the review of Egypt comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/28/16), the views of Egypt concerning the

recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (*see also A/HRC/28/16/Add.1*).

**1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome**

856. The head of the delegation of Egypt, H.E. Ambassador Amr Ramadam, reiterated his appreciation for the UPR as valuable mechanism in the development of human rights in the world, characterized by universality, non-selectivity, objectivity and based on interactive and constructive dialogue. Egypt contributed positively in the development of this mechanism, especially through the elaboration and adoption of Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21 and other decisions.

857. The examination of the human rights situation in Egypt by the UPR Working Group on 5 November 2014 brought as a result 300 recommendations which have been dealt with at the national level through the institutional process activated by the decision of the Prime Minister No. 37 of 2015, creating a Permanent National Committee for Human Rights. This committee, which includes different national stakeholders, has studied and decided on a position in response to the above-mentioned recommendations. It has also the task of proposing policies and measures necessary for the implementation of the accepted recommendations and their follow-up. The committee is currently chaired by the Minister of Transitional Justice, a position created after the revolution of 25 January, and includes various other ministries and stakeholders.

858. The Committee held a significant number of meetings and lengthy consultations with several relevant Egyptian stakeholders, including the National Council for Human Rights, the National Council for Women, the National Council for Motherhood and Childhood and the National Council for People with Disabilities, as well as representatives of other civil society organizations, with a view to hear visions and proposals of these entities on the recommendations received by Egypt during the UPR session. Among other tangible results, it was agreed to hold regular future meetings between the Government and civil society to discuss human rights issues.

859. Before reviewing the position of Egypt on the recommendations, the delegation pointed out that it had submitted to the Secretariat an addendum to the UPR WG report clearly describing its position on all 300 recommendations. The delegation emphasized that endorsement or acceptance of the recommendations, whether in total support or in part, comes in the light of the commitment and consistency with the provisions of the new Egyptian constitution, which was approved in a referendum in January 2014 and Egypt's international obligations in the field of human rights.

860. A number of recommendations had been already implemented, for instance the ones related to the establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, whereas the National Council for Human Rights has been working for many years in full independence and efficiency enjoying status A by the National Institutions International Coordinating Committee.

861. Partial support to recommendations means the support to a part of the recommendation or its goal, while Egypt differs with its time frame or the way to implement the recommendation, taking into account that several recommendations included more than one topic, thus making the task of the National Committee particularly difficult in dealing with such recommendations. The delegation added that, after consulting with the Secretariat, it provided further information in a letter explaining in detail which parts of

each partially accepted recommendations enjoyed the support of Egypt and which parts were noted.

862. The non-support to some recommendations, which was applied in a limited scope as much as possible, may be due to their contradiction with the provisions of the Constitution, as has been stated in the Constitution concerning the Islamic Sharia as the main source of legislation, or when a recommendation is contrary to a recognized right of a State in the framework of international law or international human rights law like the recommendations calling for the abolition of the death penalty, an issue that Egypt explained at length during the UPR WG session.

863. The delegation stated that ultimately 224 recommendations were fully supported, and 23 were partially supported.

864. With regard to the accession to international human rights treaties and withdrawal of reservations of already ratified conventions, the delegation stated that the Government was committed to review the legislations governing citizens' rights in line with the Constitution, and that it is currently reviewing reservations to Articles 2 and 16 of CEDAW in line of the new Constitution and in conformity with the Islamic Sharia.

865. With regard to the recommendations relating to the institutional and legislative frameworks, the rationale for the Government's position is ensuring full respect for and protection of human rights through prosecution of any abuse or violation or attack to a citizen during the legitimate exercise of his/her rights, and the implementation of the principle that the right to dignity is one of the most important rights guaranteed by the Constitution. This approach was reflected in the acceptance of all recommendations dealing with the crime of torture.

866. Egypt accepted all recommendations concerning women, children, disability and family rights with the belief that all of them deserve full protection with special priority given to the criminalization of all forms of violence against women, protection of marginalized groups rights which includes women, children, persons with disabilities and the poor, and to the protection of the family as the basic unit of society, a topic on which Egypt had presented an initiative in the context of the Human Rights Council's work.

867. In relation to recommendations on cooperation with international human rights mechanisms, Egypt reiterated its will to strengthen cooperation with these mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council and special procedures. Egypt has already extended invitations to a number of mandate holders to visit the country.

868. Regarding procedures and safeguards of the judicial system and transitional justice, Egypt dealt with the recommendations in line with its commitment to provide guarantees for fair trial and equality through the Constitution and the Criminal Procedure Code to all citizens without discrimination, as extensively explained in Addendum 1 and in the above-mentioned letter to the Secretariat.

869. The Government has shown great openness in dealing with recommendations on strengthening the protection of and respect for civil and political rights, especially with respect to those related to the preparation of a new law for NGOs, as well as those associated with the right to peaceful assembly, the right to freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of religion, and the prohibition of discrimination in all its forms, while confirming that civil society is a key partner for the Government in strengthening these rights.

870. Egypt accepted all recommendations received with regard to the development of human rights education and training, combating trafficking and illegal migration, and economic, social and cultural rights.

871. Egypt also accepted all 6 recommendations on the fight against terrorism, in line with Article 237 of the Egyptian Constitution, ensuring inter alia the disbursement of compensations to the victims of terrorism.

872. The fact that Egypt accepted a high number of recommendations is a proof of the strong interaction with the UPR process, and its openness to different views expressed during the review. More importantly, it is the evidence of the embodiment of the issue of enhancing the protection and respect for human rights in the political consciousness of the Egyptian state.

873. Since the UPR WG session in November 2014, Egypt has continued to work diligently on the revisions of laws and legislations, particularly through the work of the Supreme Committee on legislative reform. These efforts are proceeding apace in the implementation of operational policies and programs, many of which relate to economic and social rights having high priority at present. The next phase will show a significant momentum with the forthcoming election of the new House of Representatives.

## **2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

874. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Egypt, 16 delegations made statements. The statements of the delegations that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints<sup>46</sup> are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council, if available.

875. Belarus indicated that the careful consideration to the recommendations given by the government of Egypt testifies to the close attention paid to the defence and protection of human rights. It noted with satisfaction that Egypt accepted a significant number of recommendations including those made by Belarus. It welcomed Egypt's constructive approach to cooperation within the UPR framework to strengthen national capacity and broaden international cooperation on human rights.

876. Belgium welcomed Egypt's commitment within the framework of the UPR process and encouraged the country to implement recommendations. It recognized the necessity of combating terrorism but highlighted that maintaining order should be carried out in compliance with international human rights norms that had been accepted by Egypt by becoming party to relevant conventions. Belgium expressed satisfaction with the acceptance by Egypt of its four recommendations.

877. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela highlighted Egypt's open cooperation with the UPR mechanism. It highlighted Egypt's successful plans in the social expanding social services and programmes for the protection of the population across the country. It acknowledged the significant efforts made by Egypt to comply with its human rights obligations and appreciated the Government's commitment to achieving this objective.

878. Botswana welcomed amendments made to the Constitution which now reflects the country's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. It noted with appreciation that Egypt had accepted the majority of the recommendations received and had taken measures to implement them. It also commended initiatives to promote equality of women and encouraged Egypt to continue to step up such efforts.

879. Brunei Darussalam appreciated Egypt's commitment to carrying out policies to ensure the fundamental rights and freedoms of its people. It particularly welcomed initiatives to eradicate illiteracy as well as efforts to empower women. It noted that Egypt

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<sup>46</sup> <https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/28hSession/Pages/Calendar.aspx>.

had accepted a significant number of the recommendations made during the Working Group session. It recommended the adoption of the report.

880. Burkina Faso was pleased that it had been able to participate in the inter-active dialogue with Egypt and had contributed by addressing recommendations to help improve the human rights situation in the country. It was grateful to Egypt for accepting the three recommendations it had put forward during the dialogue. It called on the Human Rights Council to adopt the report of Egypt.

881. China appreciated the constructive engagement of Egypt with the UPR. It also expressed appreciation that Egypt had accepted its recommendations to continue to strengthen the empowerment of women in public life and to further promote human rights education and training for law enforcement agents. China indicated that Egypt had achieved results in the areas of employment, policies for women, protecting children with disabilities and migrants.

882. Côte d'Ivoire commended the interest given by Egypt to the recommendations received and stated that their implementation will contribute to strengthening measures to ensure the full enjoyment of all rights in the country. It encouraged Egypt to continue efforts to ensure the rule of law and to consolidate social development, public security and the protection of vulnerable groups.

883. Cuba thanked Egypt for accepting the three recommendations it had made related to corruption, economic empowerment of women and religious tolerance. The implementation of these and other accepted recommendations will help the country to continue to improve the human rights situation. It expressed the belief that the country will be able to face the complex situations and changes of the last few years.

884. Saudi Arabia thanked Egypt for the information provided indicating that it had accepted most of the recommendations received including those it had made. It noted that Egypt had undergone a difficult period over the past few years but that this had not prevented it from cooperating more closely in the area of human rights which reflects its confidence in the international community.

885. El Salvador congratulated Egypt for having accepted many of the recommendation received during its second UPR. It expressed the hope that with the announcement of upcoming parliamentary elections, Egypt will consolidate its democracy. It urged Egypt to continue working and cooperating with civil society, special procedures and OHCHR in the promotion and protection of the human rights of all Egyptians.

886. Ethiopia appreciated Egypt's constructive and principled engagement with the Human Rights Council and its acceptance of a significant number of the recommendations of the second UPR cycle. It thanked Egypt for accepting all of its recommendations. Ethiopia noted with satisfaction the development of strong implementation mechanisms by Egypt.

887. Gabon welcomed the adoption of a new Constitution including a chapter on human rights. It noted that the Constitution addressed issues relating to the right to strike and eliminated certain restrictions to the freedom of belief. Gabon welcomed initiatives such as the adoption of more stringent sanctions for violence against women and the establishment of health insurance for families headed by women and young children.

888. Germany noted positively that Egypt had accepted many recommendations of the second UPR cycle. With regard to its recommendations, Germany appreciated Egypt's commitment to step up protection of women's rights. It reiterated that unfettered protection of freedom of association is necessary for the development of a society's full potential and regretted that Egypt had not accepted the recommendation on reintroducing a moratorium on the death penalty.

889. Ghana commended Egypt's dedication to the UPR process despite the major political and social changes that had occurred and expressed solidarity with the people of Egypt. It welcomed the progressive changes introduced by the 2014 Constitution and called on Egypt to favourably consider recommendations made during the UPR, and on OHCHR and the international community to assist Egypt in the realisation of its human rights goals.

890. Greece welcomed the acceptance by Egypt of many of the recommendations received and expressed confidence that the government will take all necessary measures to swiftly implement them. It expressed appreciation that its recommendations had been accepted particularly the enhancement of Parliamentary representation of women and strengthening efforts to combat illegal migration. It also appreciated Egypt's stabilising role in the wider Middle East Region and Northern Africa.

### 3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

891. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Egypt, 11 other stakeholders made statements. The statements of the stakeholders that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints<sup>47</sup> are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council, if available.

892. The President of the National Council for Human Rights expressed satisfaction for the human rights policies of the Egyptian Government and called it to cancel all laws which may restrict fundamental freedoms. The President also stated that the National Council will take responsibility for the implementation of UPR recommendations within the scope of its mandate. The National Council urged the Government to amend the law on demonstrations; to adopt a new legislation on the right to assembly; to establish a commission for equality and non-discrimination; to strengthen its efforts to fight terrorism; to establish an independent mechanism to undergo prisons visits, a task that can be undertaken by the National Council; to invite special rapporteurs to visit Egypt; and for the Government and OHCHR to take necessary measures for establishing the OHCHR regional office in Cairo. Finally, the President of the National Council stated that the region needs peace and international cooperation to combat terrorism, especially in relation to the protection of the rights of Palestinians.

893. The Centre for Economic and Social Rights commended Egypt for the constitutional protection of economic and social rights, and for the support of UPR recommendations on these issues, but was concerned by the gap between commitments and reality on the ground. More of a quarter of the population lives in poverty. Harsh austerity measures are disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable groups of the society. It called on Egypt to prioritize rights based socio-economic reforms and the Human Rights Council to be vigilant across the full range of rights in Egypt.

894. ISHR, APC and FORUM-ASIA expressed concern that the violence, intimidation and harassment faced by women human rights defenders have only intensified. Particularly, they reiterated recommendations 166.177-166.184, regarding Egypt's compliance with its international obligations to ensure fair, equitable and independent judicial procedures. They called on the Egyptian government to ensure prompt and independent investigations to identify the perpetrators of killings during peaceful protests and hold them to account.

895. The International Federation of Human Rights Leagues recalled that several Egyptian human rights organization did not participate in the UPR session of November 2014 for fear of reprisals upon their return to Egypt. The claim that no one has been punished for his/her opinion and political affiliation is baseless. Thousands of political

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<sup>47</sup> <https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/28hSession/Pages/Calendar.aspx>.

prisoners have been sentenced to hefty prison sentences in mass trials marred by irregularities. Laws criminalizing violence against women contain significant gaps, particularly an inadequate definition of rape and the absence of provisions criminalizing domestic violence.

896. The Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot integratie Van Homoseksualiteit – COC Nederland and the International Lesbian and Gay Association were concerned about the continuous human rights violations to the LBGTIQ community in Egypt, which has no explicit law criminalizing homosexuality, but uses debauchery, prostitution and blasphemy laws against LBGTIQ people, who are also tortured and sexually violated by the police in detention. Since October 2013, more than 200 men and trans-people have been arrested.

897. The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights stated that Egypt's support to a high number of recommendations was a positive step and noted that the 2014 Constitution incorporates provisions for economic, social and civil rights. However, policies and strategies must be implemented in consultation with stakeholders, particularly women and human rights organizations. In order to do so, laws related to the rights to association and public assembly need to be amended.

898. The East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project expressed solidarity to the many Egyptian NGOs, civil society members, human rights defenders, and journalists who have borne the brunt of a clampdown on the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly. They welcomed the recommendation of Tunisia on an environment conducive to the work of journalists, human rights defenders and civil society organizations, and the call from the United States of America to release those detained solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression.

899. The Arab Organization for Human Rights expressed appreciation for the positive steps taken by Egypt to realize the legitimate aspirations of the Egyptian people, especially the adoption of the 2014 Constitution which is largely in line with international standards. Despite the challenges it is facing, especially terrorism, Egypt should lift the restrictions related to the work of the civil society, and achieve democratization through, inter alia, the implementation of human rights.

900. Article 19 noted that no high level official responsible for the killing of protestors has been held accountable and that several Human Rights Council members recommended the repeal of the Protest Law. At least 10 journalists remain in prisons. New and extreme pressures, including changes to the Penal Code criminalizing the receipt of foreign funds, are being exerted on civil society organizations. Council's member states should take proactive measures to ensure that Egypt fulfils commitments made during its UPR.

901. The Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies stated that violations of the rights to peaceful assembly and association are on the rise and the majority of assemblies are met by excessive use of force. On 24 January 2014, a protest of activists was attacked by the police resulting in the killing of a woman human rights defender. Thousands of individuals are still in prison since July 2013 for protesting against government policies. More than a hundred detainees were killed as a result of torture in detention facilities throughout the past two years with little investigation into these crimes.

902. Human Rights Watch stated that since the UPR, the Government has perpetrated more human rights violations, and its response to recommendations made during the UPR offer little hope of progress. Egypt noted recommendations to release those detained for politically motivated reasons: in fact, authorities arrested at least 41,000 persons since July 2013, many solely for being members of the Muslim Brotherhood, and secular and leftist activists. The Government has never provided a full accounting of the number of people arrested, convicted and sentenced. Many of those who have challenged the Protest Law have been imprisoned, and others have killed.

#### 4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

903. The President stated that based on the information provided out of 300 recommendations, Egypt supported 224, noted 53 and additional information was provided by Egypt on the remaining 23 recommendations, clearly indicating which part of each recommendation was supported and which part was noted.

904. The delegation of Egypt extended sincere thanks to all participants in the dialogue and to the President of the National Council for Human Rights, whose independence was guaranteed and appreciated. Together with positive criticism, the delegation also heard not well-grounded statements. For instance, the negligence of some NGOs to signal the legal procedures undertaken to deal with the case of activist Shaaïmaa El-Sabajh, and allegations of impunity related to killings during mass gatherings were unfounded.

905. The January and June revolutions have shaped the road map for the future though more time will be needed to consolidate achievements. The greater part of the road ahead has been covered through the adoption of the new Constitution in 2014 which includes unprecedented provisions for the protection of civil and economic rights and freedoms. The new Constitution will also play a key role in linking the concept and vision of transitional justice with reform policies. Accepted recommendations will be implemented through an ambitious plan, led by the Permanent National Committee for Human Rights, which will see the participation of all stakeholders. The delegation concluded by stating that there is big optimism in a future of prosperity and equality in Egypt, as manifested in the emblematic success of the recent economic conference held in Sharm el-Sheikh.

#### **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

906. The review of Bosnia and Herzegovina was held on 5 November 2014 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/BIH/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/BIH/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/20/BIH/3).

907. At its 42nd meeting, on 20 March 2015, the Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Bosnia and Herzegovina (see section C below).

908. The outcome of the review of Bosnia and Herzegovina comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/28/17), the views of Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group.

#### 1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions as well as on its voluntary commitments and on the outcome

909. The delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina stated that its cooperation with the Human Rights Council had always been constructive and fruitful. This had been reflected in its efforts to fulfil its reporting obligations under various United Nations human rights treaties in a timely manner by successfully presenting its reports and by noting and accepting recommendations and instructions aimed at making further progress.



910. Bosnia and Herzegovina looked forward to further deepening its cooperation with the Human Rights Council and fulfilling its commitment to the provisions of the human rights instruments. It paid particular attention to the obligations deriving from the UPR mechanism. It considered the UPR to be a positive, innovative mechanism with true potential to improve human rights on the ground. It noted the conclusions and recommendations of the UPR Working Group provided an impetus for its relevant authorities to further enhance their cooperation with the United Nations bodies dealing with human rights.

911. Bosnia and Herzegovina thanked all the delegations which actively participated in the interactive debate during the UPR review in November 2014, had recognized its efforts since the first cycle and had made valuable recommendations and observations in order to improve the country's human rights record.

912. The delegation noted, however, that Bosnia and Herzegovina had had a prolonged interim period under a caretaker Council of Ministers since the elections of October 2014. The new Council of Ministers was expected to be fully operational within few a days of the current meeting. The new authorities would therefore need more time in order to continue detailed and thorough examination of the 167 recommendations received during the UPR, all of which were being taken note of. From a procedural perspective Bosnia and Herzegovina would soon be in a position to provide very specific views on each recommendation and would do so no later than the June session of the Human Rights Council. It also had no doubt that everything that fell within the framework of its accepted international obligations and the constitutional arrangement of the state would be considered positively.

## **2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Council on the review outcome**

913. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 9 delegations made statements.

914. Malaysia appreciated Bosnia and Hercegovina's commitment, transparency and its forthcoming commitment in the UPR process. It was pleased with the country's responses during the review session, particularly its efforts to strengthen its legal and constitutional framework related to human rights. It lauded Bosnia and Herzegovina for the adoption of the new law on social protection which had resulted in an improvement in the status of the most vulnerable groups of the population.

915. As a member of the troika for the review of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sierra Leone commended it for its cooperation and openness in the review process. However, it noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina had yet to provide its responses to the recommendations and called upon it to consider all the recommendation it had received, including the recommendations from Sierra Leone, as soon as the situation permitted. It also encouraged Bosnia and Herzegovina to continue to work to improve the human rights situation in the country and looked forward to the continued positive engagement of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

916. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland recognised the steps taken by Bosnia and Herzegovina to implement some recommendations from the last UPR cycle and called for the implementation of all previously accepted recommendations as well as those which it would accept from this cycle. It was concerned about increased of attacks on journalists, the independence of the media and the recent adoption of the Law on Public Order in the Republika Srpska. It called for the urgent adoption of the legislation to enable the establishment and adequate resourcing of the National Preventive Mechanism under OP-CAT and urged the adoption of an anti-discrimination action plan.

917. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela acknowledged Bosnia and Herzegovina's commitment to human rights. It highlighted the accession to several international instruments, namely the CRPD, as well as the efforts made to adjust its legal framework on prevention of gender violence, including domestic violence, and protection of victims. It commended the efforts deployed to comply with previously accepted recommendations.

918. China commended Bosnia and Herzegovina's constructive engagement with the UPR and its consideration of the recommendations made to it. It appreciated Bosnia and Herzegovina's consideration of its recommendations concerning the promotion and protection of the rights of vulnerable groups, so that they would be able to enjoy increased and equal opportunities for development. It wished Bosnia and Herzegovina increased success in the comprehensive advancement of human rights and endorsed the meeting's approval of the outcome for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

919. The Council of Europe was particularly concerned by the social exclusion, marginalization of and discrimination against Roma. More measures needed to be undertaken to harmonize legislation concerning the criminalization of offences of corruption and to strengthen the internal control of the mechanisms of political parties. Access to justice and effective domestic remedies and adequate, effective and proportionate reparation needed to be ensured for victims of wartime atrocities. It noted with satisfaction the ratification of the European Charter of Regional and Minority languages, the adoption of the anti-discrimination law at the state level and the completion of the restructuring of the Ombudsman institution.

920. Kuwait thanked Bosnia and Herzegovina for the comprehensive information provided on its efforts to implement accepted recommendations and on developments in the area of human rights. It welcomed efforts deployed to promote and protect human rights in areas such as health, rights of children, rights of women and to accede to several international instruments, including OP-ICESCR.

921. Latvia commended the commitment and constructive participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in its second UPR cycle. It recognized the country's progress in promoting gender equality, including through signing and ratifying a number of international instruments dealing with the prohibition of violence against women and domestic violence. It noted the elaboration of a strategy for preventing and combating domestic violence. Latvia encouraged it to take further steps to ensure freedom of speech and freedom of access to information both offline and online.

922. Libya welcomed Bosnia and Herzegovina's commitment to and active participation in the UPR process. It commended the transparency and openness which it had demonstrated as well as its serious consideration of the recommendations which reflected Bosnia and Herzegovina's commitment to further improving the human rights situation. Libya recommended that the meeting adopt the outcome.

### **3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders**

923. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 7 other stakeholders made statements. The statements of the stakeholders that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints<sup>48</sup> are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council, if available.

924. The Ombudsman Institution of Bosnia and Herzegovina highlighted several areas which required urgent attention. It considered that many strategic documents had been

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<sup>48</sup> <https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/28thSession/Pages/Calendar.aspx>.

developed relating to particular human rights issues, but there was no comprehensive document to guide all public authorities. The reform of the Ombudsman Institution needed to be completed, in accordance with the recommendations of the Venice Commission, and sufficient resources allocated to it, as did the process of making the Ombudsman the National Preventive Mechanism for Torture. The Ombudsman stated that twenty years after the war many victims had not been recognized; now was a critical moment to resolve their situation. A condition for this was the adoption of the Law on Torture Victims and the creation of measures for reparation and lustration. The Ombudsman considered that all obstacles in access to information and the freedom of the media needed to be removed. Implementation of the Anti-discrimination law would be the guarantee for the protection of all vulnerable groups and the participation of women needed to be increase.

925. Human Rights House Foundation (HRHF) noted the political circumstances of Bosnia and Herzegovina's UPR, but noted that civil society had participated in the hope that the resulting commitments would bring change. It was concerned that despite the protests of February 2014 the necessary reforms were still awaited. HRHF stated that discrimination on all grounds was one of the main issues and ethnic minorities, particularly Roma, LGBT persons and persons with disabilities were especially discriminated against. It considered that, as recommended in the UPR, the State and entity Governments must join forces to take further steps towards the implementation of the Sejdić and Finci decision of the ECHR. HRHF stated that Bosnia and Herzegovina should also accept the recommendations to end segregation in schools based on ethnicity.

926. Minority Rights Group (MRG) noted the political marginalization of non-constituent citizens entrenched in the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina which left minority groups with limited decision-making power. MRG stated that national minorities and de facto minority communities, including minority returnees in the entities, were excluded from representation in several fora and local laws and constitutions extend special privileges to the Constituent Peoples. It therefore urged Bosnia and Herzegovina to accept the recommendations related to this, including the implementation of the judgments of the ECHR in both the Sejdić and Finci and the Zornić cases and stressed the importance of effective participation of minority groups in the consultation processes.

927. Save the Children International was concerned that violence against children remained hidden and called on Bosnia and Herzegovina to implement the UPR recommendations related to this, in particular by defining strategies and plans for the protection of children from violence abuse and exploitation on the Internet and to protect them from viewing harmful content. It noted that one recommendation called for increased efforts to guarantee children's rights, particularly in the field of social protection and education. It also called on the Government to: adopt nationwide strategies for the deinstitutionalization of childcare and reallocation of funding towards alternative family-based care; and ensure the development of service and capacity-building for childcare professionals so as to adequately support vulnerable parents and children.

928. Amnesty International (AI) stated that, despite positive steps towards increasing the resources available for the prosecution of war crimes, the authorities needed to ensure that the backlog of cases was reduced and launch new investigations and prosecutions. It was concerned that survivors of sexual violence committed during the conflict continued to face obstacles in accessing their rights and many remained stigmatized and ostracized; compensation had not been awarded, even where courts had established that a war crime involving sexual violence had been committed. AI called on the Government to ensure that victims of war crimes of sexual violence had effective access to reparation and appropriate services for healthcare, rehabilitation and protection from discrimination, regardless of where they lived in the country. It also called for adequate witness protection.

929. Action Canada for Population and Development was disappointed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had not indicated which recommendations it would act upon, but welcomed the detailed responses to questions on sexual orientation and gender identity. Despite the existence of the laws on gender equality and prohibition of discrimination, it stated that people were regularly discriminated against and faced violence because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. It urged Bosnia and Herzegovina to harmonize existing laws with the law on prohibition of discrimination so as to remove loopholes; include a clause in both above-mentioned laws referring specifically to gender identity; develop a national plan based on these two laws and include specific provisions to ensure equality and non-discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

930. The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom regretted Bosnia and Herzegovina's postponement of its statement on the recommendations and urged it to accept and implement all recommendations promptly, in particular the recommendation the recommendation from France concerning reparation and compensation for victims of torture. It noted that two decades after the war the Law on Victims of Torture still waited adoption; this was despite numerous attempts to do so and recommendations from the treaty bodies and in the UPR. It considered that a clear definition of victims of torture was needed as the multiple definitions in use were creating fragmentation and a lack of clarity; and that singling out victims of rape as a different category lead to discrimination and failed to recognize that rape was a form of torture.

#### **4. Concluding remarks of the State under review**

931. The President stated that, based on the information provided, all 167 recommendations received were noted by Bosnia and Herzegovina. He appreciated Bosnia and Herzegovina's expressed commitment to return with additional information no later than June 2015.

932. In its concluding remarks Bosnia and Herzegovina thanked all the delegations for the constructive interactive dialogue which was held during the review in November 2014. It also thanked the delegations for their comments made during adoption of the outcome. These comments had been taken as positive and would provide a constructive impetus to the work of the Council of Ministers, which was expected to be sworn in a week's time. The delegation also expected that Bosnia and Herzegovina would be able to come to the June session with comprehensive and detailed responses to all the questions and recommendations which had been presented in the session of November 2014.

933. The delegation also wished to use the opportunity to thank the entire international community which had been engaged with Bosnia and Herzegovina in the two decades since the war and had assisted the country at all levels in its real and profound transformation of so as to make good progress towards the full respect for human rights.

934. Bosnia and Herzegovina thanked the members of the Troika (Sierra Leone, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Korea) for their excellent engagement which had helped the UPR process go smoothly.

### **B. General debate on agenda item 6**

935. At the 43rd meeting, on 20 March 2015 the Human Rights Council held a general debate on agenda item 6, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Albania, Algeria (on behalf of the Group of African States), Bahrain<sup>49</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), China (also on behalf of Algeria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zimbabwe), India, Latvia (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine), Morocco, Paraguay (also on behalf of Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, the Netherlands, Panama, Peru, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (also on behalf of Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Sudan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Yemen);

(b) Representatives of observer States: the Czech Republic, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Philippines, Serbia, Turkey;

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

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Advocates for Human Rights, African Technology Development Link, Alsalam Foundation, Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc, AUA Americas Chapter Inc, Center for Environmental and Management Studies, Center for Reproductive Rights, Commission to Study the Organization of Peace, Human Rights Law Centre, Indian Council of South America (CISA), International Association for Democracy in Africa, International Catholic Child Bureau, International Environment and Resources Council (WERC), International Institute for Non-aligned Studies, International Service for Human Rights, Rencontre Africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme, The Center for Reproductive Rights Inc, United Nations Watch, United Schools International, UPR Info (also on behalf of Article 19 – The International Centre Against Censorship; Franciscans International; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; International Federation of ACAT (Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture); Edmund Rice International; East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project; International Lesbian and Gay Association; World Vision International; Plan International; Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd; Save the Children International; Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII), Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik, World Environment and Resources Council (WERC), World Jewish Congress.

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<sup>49</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

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

### **Italy**

936. At the 37th meeting, on 18 March 2015, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 28/101 without a vote.

### **El Salvador**

937. At the 37th meeting, on 18 March 2015, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 28/102 without a vote.

### **Plurinational State of Bolivia**

938. At the 38th meeting, on 18 March 2015, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 28/103 without a vote.

### **Fiji**

939. At the 38th meeting, on 18 March 2015, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 28/104 without a vote.

### **San Marino**

940. At the 38th meeting, on 18 March 2015, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 28/105 without a vote.

### **Kazakhstan**

941. At the 39th meeting, on 19 March 2015, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 28/106 without a vote.

### **Angola**

942. At the 39th meeting, on 19 March 2015, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 28/107 without a vote.

### **Islamic Republic of Iran**

943. At the 39th meeting, on 19 March 2015, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 28/108 without a vote.

### **Iraq**

944. At the 41st meeting, on 19 March 2015, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 28/109 without a vote.

### **Madagascar**

945. At the 41st meeting, on 19 March 2015, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 28/110 without a vote.

### **Slovenia**

946. At the 41st meeting, on 19 March 2015, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 28/111 without a vote.

**Egypt**

947. At the 42nd meeting, on 20 March 2015, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 28/112 without a vote.

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

948. At the 42nd meeting, on 20 March 2015, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 28/113 without a vote.

**The Gambia**

949. At the 54th meeting, on 26 March 2015, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 28/114 without a vote.

## VII Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

### A. Oral update by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry to investigate all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly in the occupied Gaza strip, in the context of the military operations conducted since 13 June 2014

950. At the 45th meeting, on 23 March 2015, the Chair of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry to investigate all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly in the occupied Gaza strip, in the context of the military operations conducted since 13 June 2014, Mary McGowan Davis, presented an oral update, pursuant to Human Rights Council decision of 16 March 2015 (see paragraphs 37-40 above).

### B. Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967

951. At the 45th meeting, on 23 March 2015, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Makarim Wibisono, presented his report (A/HRC/28/78).

952. At the same meeting, the representative of the State of Palestine made a statement as the State concerned.

953. Also at the same meeting, the Independent Commission for Human Rights of the State of Palestine made a statement.

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

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria (also on behalf of the Group of African States with the exception of Cameroon), Bahrain<sup>50</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cuba, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Pakistan (on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritania, the Niger, Oman, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey;

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

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: ADALAH - Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel (also on behalf of Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights; Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man; Defence for Children International); American Association of Jurists; Amuta for NGO Responsibility; Defence for Children International (also on behalf of ADALAH - Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel; Al-Haq,

<sup>50</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.



Law in the Service of Man); International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists; International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations; United Nations Watch; World Jewish Congress.

955. At the same meeting, the representative of the State of Palestine made final remarks as the State concerned.

956. Also at the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

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

957. At the 45th meeting, on 23 March 2015, the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights introduced the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of Human Rights Council resolutions S-9/1 and S-12/1 (A/HRC/28/80 and Add.1). Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 25/28, the Deputy High Commissioner also presented the report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/28/43 and Corr.1) on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the independent fact-finding mission on the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (A/HRC/22/63), and the report of the Secretary-General on the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan (A/HRC/28/44). The Deputy High Commissioner also introduced the reports of the Secretary-General on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (A/HRC/28/45), pursuant to Council resolution 25/29, and on the matter of human rights in the Occupied Syrian Golan (A/HRC/28/46), pursuant to Council resolution 25/31.

### **D. General debate on agenda item 7**

958. At its 45th and 46th meetings, on 23 March 2015, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on agenda item 7, during which the following made statements:

(a) The representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic and the State of Palestine, as the States concerned;

(b) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria (also on behalf of the Group of African States with the exception of Cameroon), Bahrain<sup>51</sup> (also on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of)<sup>52</sup> (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Ireland, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Pakistan (on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Representatives of observer States: Chile, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Nicaragua, Oman, Senegal, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, Uruguay, Yemen;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights; Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man; Amuta for NGO Responsibility; Arab

<sup>51</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>52</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

Organization for Human Rights; BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights; Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies; Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches; Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations (also on behalf of B'nai B'rith); European Union of Jewish Students; Human Rights Watch; Institute for Women's Studies and Research; International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists; International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (FIDH); International Federation of Journalists; International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations; Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development; Norwegian Refugee Council; Organization for Defending Victims of Violence; Presse Embleme Campagne; Union of Arab Jurists; United Nations Watch; World Jewish Congress.

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

### **Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan**

959. At the 57th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.3, sponsored by Pakistan (on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation with the exception of Albania) and co-sponsored by Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Namibia and Zimbabwe joined the sponsors.

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

961. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote.

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

*In favour:*

Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

*Against:*

United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Albania, Botswana, Estonia, France, Germany, Ghana, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Paraguay, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

963. Draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.3 was adopted by 29 votes to 1, with 17 abstentions (resolution 28/24).

### **Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination**

964. At the 57th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.32, sponsored by Pakistan (on behalf of the States members of the

Organization of Islamic Cooperation) and co-sponsored by Algeria (on behalf of the Group of African States with the exception of Cameroon), Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Nicaragua, Switzerland and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Austria, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden joined the sponsors.

965. At the same meeting, the representative of Saudi Arabia made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

966. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the State of Palestine made a statement as the State concerned.

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

*In favour:*

Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

*Against:*

United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Ghana

968. Draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.32 was adopted by 45 votes to 1, with 1 abstention<sup>53</sup> (resolution 28/25).

969. At the same meeting, the representative of Argentina made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

**Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan**

970. At the 57th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.33, sponsored by Pakistan (on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) and co-sponsored by Algeria (on behalf of the Group of African States with the exception of Cameroon), Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Croatia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland joined the sponsors.

971. At the same meeting, the representative of Saudi Arabia made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

<sup>53</sup> The representative of Ghana subsequently stated that there had been an error in the delegation's vote and that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft text.

972. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the State of Palestine made a statement as the State concerned.

973. At the same meeting, the representatives of Latvia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Human Rights Council) and Paraguay made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

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

*In favour:*

Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

*Against:*

United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Paraguay

975. Draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.33 was adopted by 45 votes to 1, with 1 abstention (resolution 28/26).

### **Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem**

976. At the 57th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.34, sponsored by Pakistan (on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) and co-sponsored by Algeria (on behalf of the Group of African States with the exception of Cameroon), Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Denmark, Ecuador, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Sweden joined the sponsors.

977. At the same meeting, the representative of Saudi Arabia made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

978. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the State of Palestine made a statement as the State concerned.

979. At the same meeting, the representative of Paraguay made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote.

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

*In favour:*

Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

*Against:*

United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Botswana, Paraguay, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

981. Draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.34 was adopted by 43 votes to 1, with 3 abstentions<sup>54</sup> (resolution 28/27).

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<sup>54</sup> The representative of Ghana subsequently stated that there had been an error in the delegation's vote and that it had intended to abstain.

## VIII. Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

### A. General debate on agenda item 8

982. At its 46th and 47th meetings, on 23 March 2015, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on agenda item 8, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria (also on behalf of Angola, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Ecuador, Namibia, Nicaragua, South Africa, Timor-Leste, the United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe), Algeria (on behalf of the Group of African States), China (also on behalf of Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, the Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Swaziland, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe, the State of Palestine), Germany (also on behalf of Albania, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Ireland, Latvia (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine), Morocco (also on behalf of the Central African Republic, Comoros, Guinea, Senegal), the Netherlands, Pakistan (on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Poland<sup>55</sup> (also on behalf of Chile, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Italy), the Russian Federation, South Africa, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Burkina Faso, Comoros, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Senegal, the Sudan;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action Canada for Population and Development; Advocates for Human Rights; African Development Association; Agence Internationale pour le Developpement; Alsalam Foundation;

<sup>55</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc; Amnesty International; Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development; Association of World Citizens; Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy; Commission africaine des promoteurs de la santé et des droits de l'homme; Federacion de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promocion de los Derechos Humanos; France Libertes : Fondation Danielle Mitterrand; Human Rights Watch (also on behalf of CIVICUS – World Alliance for Citizen Participation; International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH); International Service for Human Rights; World Organisation Against Torture); Indian Council of South America (CISA); International Buddhist Relief Organisation; International Humanist and Ethical Union; International Muslim Women's Union; Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco (also on behalf of International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development – VIDES; Salesian Missions, Inc.; Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo); Liberation; Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development; Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association; Organisation pour la Communication en Afrique et de Promotion de la Cooperation Economique Internationale - OCAPROCE Internationale; Presse Embleme Campagne; United Nations Watch; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik; World Barua Organization (WBO); World Muslim Congress.

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

### **Contribution of the Human Rights Council to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem of 2016**

983. At the 58th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representative of Colombia<sup>56</sup> (also on behalf of Albania, Brazil, Greece, Guatemala, Mexico, Norway, Paraguay, Switzerland and Uruguay) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.22, sponsored by Albania, Brazil, Colombia, Greece, Guatemala, Mexico, Norway, Paraguay, Switzerland and Uruguay, and co-sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Botswana, Bulgaria, Chile, Cyprus, Georgia, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Panama, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Timor-Leste and Turkey. Subsequently, Andorra, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Haiti, Israel, Lithuania, Montenegro, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Slovenia, Spain and Thailand joined the sponsors.

984. At the same meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

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

986. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote.

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

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<sup>56</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

## **IX. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

### **A. Debate on the state of racial discrimination worldwide**

988. At the 44th meeting, on 20 March 2015, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/162, the Human Rights Council held a debate on the state of racial discrimination worldwide, at the occasion of the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

989. The Director of the Research and Right to Development Division at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jane Connors, made an opening statement for the debate.

990. At the same meeting, the keynote speakers Christiane Taubira, Doudou Diène, Johanna Kool-Blokland and Ali Moussa Iyé made statements. The Council divided the debate into two slots.

991. During the ensuing discussion for the first slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the keynote speakers questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria (on behalf of the Group of African States), Brazil, Ecuador<sup>57</sup> (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Ghana, Morocco, Portugal;

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

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

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Indian Council of South America (CISA), United Nations Watch, World Jewish Congress.

992. At the end of the first slot, at the same meeting, the keynote speakers answered questions and made comments.

993. During the discussion for the second slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked keynote speakers questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: China, Cuba, Gabon, Germany, Latvia, Namibia, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Slovenia, Thailand;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: AUA Americas Chapter Inc, International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR), International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, US Human Rights Network Inc.

994. At the same meeting, the keynote speakers answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

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<sup>57</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.



## B. General debate on agenda item 9

995. At the 47th meeting, on 23 March 2015, the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee on the elaboration of complementary standards to strengthen and update international instruments against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in all their aspects, Abdul Samad Minty, presented the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on its sixth session (A/HRC/28/81), held from 7 to 17 October 2014.

996. At the 47th meeting, on 23 March 2015, and the 48th meeting, on 24 March 2015, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on agenda item 9, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria (also on behalf of the Group of African States), Bahrain<sup>58</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Botswana, Brazil, China, Cuba, India, Ireland, Latvia (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine), Morocco, Pakistan (also on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Egypt, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Poland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine;

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

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Advocates for Human Rights; Agence Internationale pour le Developpement; Alsalam Foundation; Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc; Amuta for NGO Responsibility; Arab Commission for Human Rights (also on behalf BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights); Commission africaine des promoteurs de la santé et des droits de l'homme; European Union of Jewish Students; International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists; International Buddhist Relief Organisation; International Humanist and Ethical Union; International Muslim Women's Union; International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations; Liberation; Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association; Organization for Defending Victims of Violence; Prevention Association of Social Harms (PASH); Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme; Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development of Environment; Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik; World Barua Organization (WBO); World Jewish Congress; World Muslim Congress.

997. At the 47th meeting, on 23 March 2015, a statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of Lithuania.

## C. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

### **Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief**

998. At the 58th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.4, sponsored by Pakistan (on behalf of the States members of the

<sup>58</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation). Subsequently, Angola, Australia, Cabo Verde, Colombia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined the sponsors.

999. At the same meeting, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, orally revised the draft resolution.

1000. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Indonesia, Latvia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Human Rights Council) and Sierra Leone made general comments in relation to the draft resolution as orally revised.

1001. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution as orally revised. The Chief of the Programme Support and Management Services of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made a statement in relation to the budgetary implications of the draft resolution as orally revised.

1002. At the same meeting, the draft resolution as orally revised was adopted without a vote (resolution 28/29).

## X. Technical assistance and capacity-building

### A. Panels

#### **Panel discussion on the issue of national policies and human rights**

1003. At the 40th meeting, on 19 March 2015, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 27/26, the Council held a panel discussion on the issue of national policies and human rights, with a particular focus on the findings of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in its report (A/HRC/27/41), identifying challenges, further developments and good practices in mainstreaming human rights in national policies and programmes.

1004. The Chief of the Americas, Europe and Central Asia Branch of the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Gianni Magazzeni, made an opening statement for the panel. The Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations Office and other international organizations at Geneva, Rytis Paulauskas, moderated the discussion for the panel.

1005. At the same meeting, the panellists Héctor Cárdenas, Pabel Muñoz, Dalila Aliane, Vitit Muntarbhorn and Giuseppe Nesi made statements. The Council divided the panel discussion into two slots.

1006. During the ensuing panel discussion for the first slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria (also on behalf of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), Ecuador<sup>59</sup> (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), India, Indonesia, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Paraguay, Portugal;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Peru, the Republic of Moldova;

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

(d) Observer for a national human rights institution: Scottish Human Rights Commission;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: International Service for Human Rights; Korea Center for United Nations Human Rights Policy.

1007. At the end of the first slot, at the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made comments.

1008. During the discussion for the second slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria, China, the Congo, Estonia, France, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, the Russian Federation, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

<sup>59</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

(b) Representatives of observer States: Colombia, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Thailand;

(c) Observer for a national human rights institution: Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme du Maroc;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc., Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik.

1009. At the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

### **Annual thematic panel discussion on technical cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights**

1010. At the 51st meeting, on 25 March 2015, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 27/20, the Council held its annual thematic panel discussion on technical cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights, with a focus on the theme "Technical cooperation to support inclusive and participatory development and poverty eradication at the national level". The panel discussion was informed by the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/28/42).

1011. The Director of the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Anders Kompass, made an opening statement for the panel. The Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations Office and other international organizations at Geneva, Thani Thongphakdi, moderated the discussion for the panel.

1012. At the same meeting, the panellists José Manuel Fresno García, Ali Bin Samikh Al Marri, Jyoti Sanghera and Esther Mwaura-Muiru made statements. The Council divided the panel discussion into two slots.

1013. During the ensuing panel discussion for the first slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria (on behalf of the Group of African States), Bahrain<sup>60</sup> (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Ecuador<sup>61</sup> (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), India, Morocco, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Qatar, Sierra Leone, the United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Turkey;

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

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Advocates for Human Rights, European Disability Forum.

1014. At the end of the first slot, at the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made comments.

1015. During the discussion for the second slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

<sup>60</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>61</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria, China, Cuba, France, Indonesia, Maldives, Paraguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam;

(b) Representatives of observer States: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Norway, the Sudan;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Alliance of World Citizens, Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik.

1016. At the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

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

### **Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic**

1017. At the 48th meeting, on 24 March 2015, the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic, Marie-Thérèse Keita Bocoum, presented an oral update.

1018. At the same meeting, the representative of the Central African Republic made a statement as the State concerned.

1019. During the ensuing interactive dialogue at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the Independent Expert questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria (also on behalf of the Group of African States), China, the Congo, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Ireland, Morocco, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Luxembourg, Norway, Senegal, the Sudan, Switzerland, Togo;

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

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International; Femmes Afrique Solidarité; International Federation of Journalists; Rencontre Africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme; Save the Children International; United Nations Watch; World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) (also on behalf of Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities)).

1020. At the same meeting, the Independent Expert answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

### **Independent Expert on capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire in the field of human rights**

1021. At the 48th meeting, on 24 March 2015, the Independent Expert on capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire in the field of human rights, Mohammed Ayat, presented an oral update.

1022. At the same meeting, the representative of Côte d'Ivoire made a statement as the State concerned.

1023. During the ensuing interactive dialogue at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the Independent Expert questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria (also on behalf of the Group of African States), China, the Congo, France, Gabon, Ghana, Morocco, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Belgium, Egypt, Mauritania, Senegal, the Sudan, Togo;

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

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Franciscans International; International Catholic Child Bureau; International Federation for Human Rights Leagues; International Service for Human Rights.

1024. At the same meeting, the representative of Côte d'Ivoire made final remarks as the State concerned.

1025. Also at the same meeting, the Independent Expert answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

#### **Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti**

1026. At the 49th meeting, on 24 March 2015, the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti, Gustavo Gallón, presented his report (A/HRC/28/82).

1027. At the same meeting, the representative of Haiti made a statement as the State concerned.

1028. Also at the same meeting, the Office de la protection du citoyen d'Haiti made a statement (by video message).

1029. During the ensuing interactive dialogue at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the Independent Expert questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Brazil, China, Cuba, Ecuador<sup>62</sup> (also on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), France, Ireland, Morocco, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Canada, Chile, Mali, Norway, Senegal, Togo;

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

(d) Observer for a non-governmental organization: United Nations Watch.

1030. At the same meeting, the Independent Expert answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

#### **Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali**

1031. At the 50th meeting, on 24 March 2015, the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali, Suliman Baldo, presented his report (A/HRC/28/83 and Corr.1).

1032. At the same meeting, the Minister of Justice of Mali, M. Mahamadou Diarra, made a statement as the State concerned.

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<sup>62</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

1033. During the ensuing interactive dialogue at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the Independent Expert questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria (also on behalf of the Group of African States), China, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Germany, Ghana, Ireland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Angola, Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, Mauritania, Norway, Senegal, the Sudan, Togo;

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);

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

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Espace Afrique International; Femmes Afrique Solidarité; Friedrich Naumann Foundation; Human Rights Watch; International Catholic Child Bureau; International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (FIDH); Rencontre Africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme.

1034. At the same meeting, the representative of Mali made final remarks as the State concerned.

1035. Also at the same meeting, the Independent Expert answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

### C. General debate on agenda item 10

1036. At the 53rd meeting, on 25 March 2015, the Deputy United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights introduced country-specific reports of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General submitted under agenda item 10 (A/HRC/28/48, A/HRC/28/49, A/HRC/28/50 and A/HRC/28/51).

1037. At the same meeting, the representatives of Afghanistan, Guinea, Libya and South Sudan made statements as the States concerned.

1038. During the ensuing general debate, at the 53rd meeting, on 25 March 2015, and the 54th meeting, on 26 March 2015, the following made statements and asked the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Canada<sup>63</sup> (also on behalf of Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America), China, Egypt<sup>64</sup> (also on behalf of Algeria, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uganda, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe), Ethiopia (on behalf of the Intergovernmental Authority for Development), France, Ireland, Latvia (on behalf of

<sup>63</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

<sup>64</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

European Union, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine), Maldives, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Angola, Egypt, Georgia, Italy, Senegal, Sudan, Thailand, Ukraine;

(c) Observer for a national human rights institution: Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (by video message);

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, American for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain Inc, Alsalam Foundation, Advocate for Human Rights, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Human Rights Watch, International Catholic Child Bureau, International Federation for Human Rights League, United Nations Watch, Marij Foundation for Peace and Development, Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation, Rencontre Africaine pour la Defense des Droits de l'Homme, Organization Internationale pour les Pays les moins Avances (OIPMA), Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik.

1039. At the 54th meeting, on 26 March 2015, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Bahrain, the Russian Federation, Thailand and the Holy See.

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

### **Technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in Libya**

1040. At the 58th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of African States, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.7/Rev.1, sponsored by Algeria (on behalf of Group of African States) and co-sponsored by Australia, Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and the United States of America joined the sponsors.

1041. At the same meeting, the representatives of Latvia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Human Rights Council) and the Russian Federation made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

1042. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Libya made a statement as the State concerned.

1043. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

1044. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (resolution 28/30).

### **Technical assistance and capacity-building for Mali in the field of human rights**

1045. At the 58th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of African States, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.9, sponsored by Algeria (on behalf of Group of African States) and co-sponsored by Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany,



Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Thailand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Australia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Georgia, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey joined the sponsors.

1046. At the same meeting, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of African States, orally revised the draft resolution.

1047. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Latvia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Human Rights Council) made general comments in relation to the draft resolution as orally revised.

1048. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution as orally revised.

1049. At the same meeting, the draft resolution as orally revised was adopted without a vote (resolution 28/31).

1050. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Gabon (on behalf of the States members and observers of the International Organization of la Francophonie) made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

**Technical assistance and capacity-building in strengthening human rights in Iraq in the light of the abuses committed by Daesh and associated terrorist groups**

1051. At the 58th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representative of Iraq<sup>65</sup> (also on behalf of Bulgaria, Canada, Germany, Greece, France, Hungary, Italy, Lebanon and Luxembourg) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.29, sponsored by Iraq and co-sponsored by Bulgaria, Canada, Germany, Greece, France, Hungary, Italy, Lebanon and Luxembourg. Subsequently, Algeria, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Georgia, Japan, Maldives, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America joined the sponsors.

1052. At the same meeting, the representative of Iraq (also on behalf of Bulgaria, Canada, Germany, Greece, France, Hungary, Italy, Lebanon and Luxembourg) orally revised the draft resolution.

1051. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of France, Latvia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Human Rights Council) and the United States of America made general comments in relation to the draft resolution as orally revised.

1053. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution as orally revised.

1054. At the same meeting, the representative of Brazil made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote.

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<sup>65</sup> Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

1055. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution as orally revised was adopted without a vote (resolution 28/32).

#### **Strengthening of technical cooperation and consultative services in Guinea**

1056. At the 58th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of African States, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/28/L.31/Rev.1, sponsored by Algeria (on behalf of Group of African States) and co-sponsored by Bulgaria, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Slovakia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Haiti, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and the United States of America joined the sponsors.

1057. At the same meeting, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of African States, orally revised the draft resolution.

1058. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Latvia (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Human Rights Council) made general comments in relation to the draft resolution as orally revised.

1059. At the same meeting, the representative of Guinea made a statement as the State concerned.

1060. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution as orally revised was adopted without a vote (resolution 28/33).

1061. At the same meeting, the representative of Gabon (on behalf of the States members and observers of the International Organization of la Francophonie) made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

#### **Situation of human rights in Haiti**

1062. At the 58th meeting, on 27 March 2015, the President of the Human Rights Council introduced draft President's statement A/HRC/28/L.37.

1063. At the same meeting, the representative of Haiti made a statement as the State concerned.

1064. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft President's statement.

1065. At the same meeting, the representative of France (also on behalf of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, the United States of America and Uruguay) made general comments in relation to the draft President's statement.

1066. Also at the same meeting, the draft President's statement was adopted by the Council (PRST 28/3).

1067. At the same meeting, the representative of Gabon (on behalf of the States members and observers of the International Organization of la Francophonie) made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

## Annex I

### Attendance

#### Members

Albania	Germany	Paraguay
Algeria	Ghana	Portugal
Argentina	India	Qatar
Bangladesh	Indonesia	Republic of Korea
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Ireland	Russian Federation
Botswana	Japan	Saudi Arabia
Brazil	Kazakhstan	Sierra Leone
China	Kenya	South Africa
Congo	Latvia	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Côte d'Ivoire	Maldives	United Arab Emirates
Cuba	Mexico	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
El Salvador	Montenegro	United States of America
Estonia	Morocco	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Ethiopia	Namibia	Viet Nam
France	Netherlands	
Gabon	Nigeria	
	Pakistan	

#### States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Afghanistan	Croatia	Israel
Andorra	Cyprus	Italy
Angola	Czech Republic	Jamaica
Armenia	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Jordan
Australia	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Kiribati
Austria	Denmark	Kuwait
Azerbaijan	Djibouti	Lao People's Democratic Republic
Bahamas	Dominican Republic	Lebanon
Bahrain	Ecuador	Lesotho
Belarus	Equatorial Guinea	Libya
Belgium	Egypt	Liechtenstein
Benin	Eritrea	Lithuania
Bhutan	Fiji	Luxembourg
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Finland	Madagascar
Brunei Darussalam	Georgia	Malaysia
Bulgaria	Greece	Mali
Burkina Faso	Guatemala	Malta
Burundi	Guinea	Mauritania
Cambodia	Haiti	Mauritius
Cameroon	Honduras	Monaco
Canada	Hungary	Mongolia
Chad	Iceland	Mozambique
Chile	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Myanmar
Colombia	Iraq	Nepal
Comoros		New Zealand
Costa Rica		Nicaragua

Niger	Singapore	Togo
Norway	Slovakia	Tunisia
Oman	Slovenia	Turkey
Panama	Somalia	Turkmenistan
Peru	South Sudan	Tuvalu
Philippines	Spain	Uganda
Poland	Sri Lanka	Ukraine
Republic of Moldova	Sudan	Uruguay
Romania	Sweden	Uzbekistan
Rwanda	Switzerland	Yemen
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Syrian Arab Republic	Zambia
San Marino	Tajikistan	Zimbabwe
Senegal	Thailand	
Serbia	Timor-Leste	

### **Non-Member States represented by observers**

Holy See  
State of Palestine

### **United Nations**

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	United Nations Development Programme – Bosnia and Herzegovina
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund	United Nations Population Fund

### **Specialized agencies and related organizations**

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	International Telecommunication Union
International Organization for Migration	World Health Organization
	World Intellectual Property Organization

### **Intergovernmental organizations**

African Union	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Commonwealth Secretariat	International Organization of la Francophonie
Council of Europe	Organization of Islamic Cooperation
European Union	South Centre
International Development Law Organization	

### **Other entities**

International Committee of the Red Cross  
Sovereign Military Order of Malta

### **National human rights institutions, international coordinating committees and regional groups of national institutions**

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (video statement)  
 Australian Human Rights Commission (video statement)  
 Canadian Human Rights Commission  
 Commission nationale des droits de l'homme de Mauritanie  
 Commission nationale consultative des droits de l'homme – France  
 Conseil national des droits de l'homme Maroc  
 Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain (joint video statement)  
 German Institute for Human Rights  
 Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) (video statement)  
 Human Rights Commission of Malawi  
 Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) of Azerbaijan  
 Independent Commission for Human Rights of the State of Palestine  
 Institute of Human Rights Ombudsmen of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
 International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC)  
 National Centre for Human Rights – Jordan  
 National Council for Human Rights – Egypt  
 National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria  
 National Human Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea  
 Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (joint video statement)  
 Office for the Protection of Citizens – Haiti (video statement)  
 Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos de El Salvador (video statement)  
 Procuraduría de los Derechos Humanos de Guatemala  
 Scottish Human Rights Commission  
 Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights

### **Non-governmental organizations**

Action Canada for Population and Development  
 Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs  
 ADALAH - Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel  
 Advocates for Human Rights  
 Africa Culture Internationale  
 African Association of Education for Development  
 African-American Society for Humanitarian Aid and Development  
 African Development Association  
 African Technical Association  
 African Technology Development Link  
 Agence Internationale pour le Développement  
 Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights  
 Al-Hakim Foundation  
 Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man  
 Aliran Kesedaran Negara National Consciousness Movement  
 Al-khoei Foundation  
 Alliance Defending Freedom  
 All-Russian Public Organization "Russian Public Institute of Electoral Law"  
 All-Russian Social Fund, "The Russian Children Foundation"  
 Alsalam Foundation  
 Alulbait Foundation  
 Al-Zubair Charity Foundation  
 American Association of Jurists  
 American Civil Liberties Union  
 Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc  
 Amman Center for Human Rights Studies  
 Amnesty International  
 Amuta for NGO Responsibility  
 Arab Commission for Human Rights  
 Arab NGO Network for Development  
 Arab Organization for Human Rights  
 Arab Penal Reform Organization  
 Article 19 – The International Centre against Censorship  
 Asian-Eurasian Human Rights Forum  
 Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development  
 Asian Legal Resource Centre  
 Association des Jeunes pour l'Agriculture du Mali  
 Association Democratique des Femmes du Maroc  
 Association Dunenyo  
 Association Fonds d'Aide Internationale au Développement  
 Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism

- Association for the Prevention of Torture  
 Association for Progressive Communications (APC)  
 Association Mauritanienne pour la promotion du droit  
 Association of World Citizens  
 Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII  
 Assyrian Aid Society Iraq  
 AUA Americas Chapter Inc  
 Auspice Stella  
 Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Resource Rights  
 Baha'i International Community  
 Bischöfliches Hilfswerk Misereor e.V.  
 B'nai B'rith  
 British Humanist Association  
 Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies  
 Canners International Permanent Committee  
 Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities)  
 Center for Global Nonkilling  
 Center for Inquiry  
 Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)  
 Center for Reproductive Rights, Inc., The  
 Centre Europe - Tiers Monde – Europe - Third World Centre  
 Center for Economic and Social Rights  
 Centre for Environmental and Management Studies  
 Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy  
 Centre for International Sustainable Development Law  
 Centre indépendant de recherches et d'initiatives pour le dialogue  
 Centre pour les Droits Civils et Politiques  
 Centre CCPR  
 Centrist Democratic International  
 Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS) Asociación Civil  
 Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims  
 Child Development Foundation  
 Child Helpline International  
 China Society for Human Rights Studies (CSHRS)  
 CIVICUS – World Alliance for Citizen Participation  
 Colombian Commission of Jurists  
 Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, Asociación Civil  
 Commission africaine des promoteurs de la santé et des droits de l'homme  
 Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches  
 Commission to Study the Organization of Peace  
 Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative  
 Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul  
 Conseil de jeunesse pluriculturelle (COJEP)  
 Conectas Direitos Humanos  
 Congregation of our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd  
 Congregations of St. Joseph  
 Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations  
 Defence for Children International  
 Development Innovations and Networks  
 Dominicans for Justice and Peace – Order of Preachers  
 Down Syndrome International  
 Drepavie  
 Earthjustice  
 East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project  
 Eastern Sudan Women Development Organization  
 Ecumenical Federation of Constantinopolitans  
 Edmund Rice International Limited  
 Egyptian Organization for Human Rights  
 Equitas centre international d'éducation aux droits humains  
 Espace Afrique International  
 European Centre for Law and Justice, The/  
 Centre Europeen pour le droit, les Justice et les droits de l'homme  
 European Disability Forum  
 European Union of Jewish Students  
 European Union of Public Relations  
 Family Health International  
 Family Planning Association, I.R.Iran  
 Federacion de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promocion de los Derechos Humanos  
 Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie van Homoseksualiteit COC Nederland  
 Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO)  
 Femmes Afrique Solidarité  
 Foodfirst Information and Action Network (FIAN)  
 Foundation ECPAT International (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography)

and Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes)  
 Foundation for GAIA  
 Fondation pour l'étude des relations internationales et du développement  
 Fondation pour un Centre pour le Développement Socio-Eco-Nomique  
 France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand  
 Franciscans International  
 Friedrich Ebert Foundation  
 Friedrich Naumann Foundation  
 Friends of the Earth International  
 Friends World Committee for Consultation  
 Geneva for Human Rights – Global Training  
 Geneva Infant Feeding Association  
 Global Hope Network International  
 Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights  
 Groupe des ONG pour la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant  
 Habitat International Coalition  
 Hawa Society for Women  
 Helios Life Association  
 Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights  
 Himalayan Research and Cultural Foundation  
 Human Rights Advocates, Inc.  
 Human Rights Association for Community Development in Assiut  
 Human Rights House Foundation  
 Human Rights Law Centre  
 Human Rights Now  
 Human Rights Watch  
 Humanist Institute for Co-operation with Developing Countries  
 IDPC Consortium  
 Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society  
 Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society  
 Indian Council of South America (CISA)  
 Indian Law Resource Centre  
 Initiatives of Change International  
 Institut international pour la paix, la justice et les droits de l'Homme – IIPJDH  
 Institute for Planetary Synthesis  
 Institute for Women's Studies and Research  
 International Association for Democracy in Africa  
 International Association for the Defence of Religious Liberty – Association Internationale Pour La Defense de la Liberte  
 International Association for Religious Freedom  
 International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL)  
 International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists  
 International Association of Schools of Social Work  
 International Bar Association  
 International Bridges to Justice, Inc.  
 International Buddhist Relief Organisation  
 International Catholic Child Bureau  
 International Catholic Migration Commission  
 International Committee for the Indians of the Americas (Incomindios Switzerland)  
 International Educational Development, Inc.  
 International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (FIDH)  
 International Federation of Acat (Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture)  
 International Federation of Journalists  
 International Fellowship of Reconciliation  
 International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission  
 International Humanist and Ethical Union  
 International Indian Treaty Council  
 International Institute for Child Protection  
 International Institute for Non-Aligned Studies  
 International Lesbian and Gay Association  
 International Longevity Center Global Alliance, Ltd.  
 International Movement against all Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR)  
 International Movement ATD Fourth World  
 International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples  
 International Muslim Women's Union  
 International Organization for the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination  
 International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (OIDEL)  
 International Partnership for Human Rights  
 International Peace Bureau  
 International Publishers Association  
 International Service for Human Rights  
 International Studies Association  
 International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development – VIDES  
 International Women Bond  
 International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations  
 Iranian Elite Research Center  
 Islamic Human Rights Commission  
 Islamic Women's Institute of Iran  
 Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco  
 Japanese Workers' Committee for Human Rights

Jossour Forum des Femmes Marocaines  
 Jubilee Campaign  
 Khiam Rehabilitation Centre for Victims  
 of Torture  
 Korea Center for United Nations Human  
 Rights Policy  
 La Brique  
 Latter-Day Saint Charities  
 Lawyers for Lawyers  
 Le Collectif des Femmes Africaines du  
 Hainaut  
 Liberal International (World Liberal Union)  
 Liberation  
 Lutheran World Federation  
 Maarij Foundation for Peace and  
 Development  
 Maryam Ghasemi Educational Charity  
 Institute  
 Mbororo Social and Cultural Development  
 Association  
 Migrants Rights International (MRI)  
 MINBYUN – Lawyers for a Democratic  
 Society  
 Minority Rights Group  
 Movement for the Protection of African  
 Child (MOPOTAC)  
 Myochikai (Arigatou Foundation)  
 Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational  
 and Transparty  
 Nord-Sud XXI  
 Norwegian Refugee Council  
 ONG Hope International  
 Open Society Institute  
 Organization for Defending Victims of  
 Violence  
 Organisation internationale pour les pays  
 les moins avancés (OIPMA)  
 Organisation Marocaine des Droits  
 Humains  
 Organisation pour la communication en  
 Afrique et de promotion de la coopération  
 économique internationale  
 OCAPROCE Internationale  
 Palestinian Centre for Human Rights  
 Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation  
 Pax Romana (International Catholic  
 Movement for Intellectual and Cultural  
 Affairs and International Movement of  
 Catholic Students)  
 Peace Brigades International Switzerland  
 Penal Reform International  
 People for Successful Korean Reunification  
 Permanent Assembly for Human Rights  
 Plan International, Inc.  
 Presse Emblème Campagne  
 Prevention Association of Social Harms (PASH)  
 Rencontre africain pour la défense des  
 droits de l'homme  
 Reporters Sans Frontiers International –  
 Reporters without Borders International  
 Réseau International des Droits Humains (RIDH)  
 Russian Peace Foundation  
 Save the Children International  
 Schweizerische Arbeitsgemeinschaft  
 der Jugendverbände  
 Servas International  
 Social Service Agency of the Protestant  
 Church in Germany  
 Society for Development and Community  
 Empowerment  
 Society for Threatened Peoples  
 Society of Iranian Women Advocating  
 Sustainable Development of Environment  
 Society Studies Centre (MADA ssc)  
 Soka Gakkai International  
 Stichting Justitia et Pax Nederland  
 Sudan Council of Voluntary Agencies  
 Syriac Universal Alliance, The. Federation  
 Syriaque International  
 Terre des Hommes Fédération Internationale  
 Union de l'action féminine  
 Union of Arab Jurists  
 United Nations Association of Great Britain and  
 Northern Ireland (UNA-UK)  
 United Nations Watch  
 United Schools International  
 UPR Info  
 US Human Rights Network Inc.  
 Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitic  
 Victorious Youths Movement  
 Village Suisse ONG  
 VIVAT International  
 Women's Federation for World Peace International  
 Women's Human Rights International Association  
 Women's International League for Peace  
 and Freedom  
 Women's World Summit Foundation  
 Working Women Association  
 World Association for the School as an  
 Instrument of Peace  
 World Barua Organization  
 World Environment and Resources Council (WERC)  
 World Evangelical Alliance  
 World Federation of United Nations  
 Associations  
 World Jewish Congress



World Muslim Congress  
World Organization against Torture  
World Resources Institute  
World Vision International

World Young Women's Christian Association  
Worldwide Organization for Women

## Annex II

### Agenda

- Item 1. Organizational and procedural matters.
- Item 2. Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General.
- Item 3. Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.
- Item 4. Human rights situations that require the Council's attention.
- Item 5. Human rights bodies and mechanisms.
- Item 6. Universal periodic review.
- Item 7. Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories.
- Item 8. Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.
- Item 9. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.
- Item 10. Technical assistance and capacity-building.

## Annex III

[English, French and Spanish only]

**Documents issued for the twenty-eighth session***Documents issued in the general series*

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A/HRC/28/1	1	Annotations to the agenda for the twenty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council: note by the Secretary-General
A/HRC/28/1/Corr.1	1	Corrigendum
A/HRC/28/2	1	Report of the Human Rights Council on its twenty-eighth session
A/HRC/28/3	2	Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/28/3/Add.1	2	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the activities of his office in Guatemala
A/HRC/28/3/Add.2	2	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the activities of his office in the Plurinational State of Bolivia
A/HRC/28/3/Add.3	2	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Colombia
A/HRC/28/4	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Italy
A/HRC/28/4/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/28/5	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on El Salvador
A/HRC/28/5/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/28/6	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on the Gambia
A/HRC/28/6/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/28/7	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on the Plurinational State of Bolivia
A/HRC/28/7/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/28/8	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Fiji

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A/HRC/28/9/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/28/10	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Kazakhstan
A/HRC/28/10/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/28/11	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Angola
A/HRC/28/11/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/28/12	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on the Islamic Republic of Iran
A/HRC/28/12/Corr.1	6	Corrigendum
A/HRC/28/12/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/28/13	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Madagascar
A/HRC/28/13/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/28/14	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Iraq
A/HRC/28/14/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/28/15	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Slovenia
A/HRC/28/15/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/28/16	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Egypt
A/HRC/28/16/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/28/17	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Bosnia and Herzegovina
A/HRC/28/18	2	Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation in Iraq in the light of abuses committed by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and associated groups
A/HRC/28/19	2	Conclusions and recommendations of special procedures: report of the Secretary-General

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A/HRC/28/20	2	Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the question of human rights in Cyprus: note by the Secretary-General
A/HRC/28/21	2	Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken to implement resolution 9/8 and obstacles to its implementation, including recommendations for further improving the effectiveness, harmonization and reform of the treaty body system: note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/28/22	2	Follow-up review of the management and administration of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: report of the Joint Inspection Unit - Note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/28/22/Add.1	2	Follow-up review of management and administration of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/28/23	2	Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka - Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/28/24	2	Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: note by the Secretary-General
A/HRC/28/25	2	United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture: note by the Secretary-General
A/HRC/28/26	2	Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran: - report of the Secretary-General
A/HRC/28/27	2, 3	Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/28/28	2, 3	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism
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A/HRC/28/31	2, 3	Workshop on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/28/32	2, 3	Summary of the discussions held during the expert consultation on the administration of justice through military tribunals and the role of the integral judicial system in combating human rights violations: report of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights
A/HRC/28/33	2, 3	Towards better investment in the rights of the child: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/28/34	2, 3	Summary of the panel discussion on accelerating global efforts to end violence against children: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/28/35	2, 3	Report of the Secretary-General on the question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights
A/HRC/28/36	2, 3	Summary of panel discussion on history teaching and memorialization processes: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/28/37	2, 3	Thematic study on the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community: report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/28/38	2, 3	Summary of the Human Rights Council interactive panel discussion of experts on the use of remotely piloted aircraft or armed drones in compliance with international law: report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

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A/HRC/28/39	2, 3	Summary of the Human Rights Council panel discussion on the right to privacy in the digital age: report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
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A/HRC/28/40/Corr.1	2,3	Corrigendum
A/HRC/28/40/Corr.2	2,3	Corrigendum
A/HRC/28/41	2, 5	Report on the twenty-first annual meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, independent experts and working groups of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, including updated information on the special procedures: note by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/28/42	2, 10	Technical assistance to support inclusive and participatory development and poverty reduction at the national level: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/28/43	2, 7	Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the independent international fact-finding mission on the implications of Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (A/HRC/22/63): report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/28/43/Corr.1	2, 7	Corrigendum
A/HRC/28/44	2, 7	Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the Occupied Syrian Golan: report of the Secretary-General
A/HRC/28/45	2, 7	Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem: report of the Secretary-General
A/HRC/28/46	2, 7	Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan: report of the Secretary-General

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A/HRC/28/48	2, 10	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan and on the achievements of technical assistance in the field of human rights in 2014
A/HRC/28/49	2, 10	Human rights situation in South Sudan: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/28/50	2, 10	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Guinea
A/HRC/28/51	2, 10	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Libya and on related technical support and capacity-building needs
A/HRC/28/52	2, 3	Report of the Secretary-General on missing persons: note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/28/53	2, 10	Panel discussion on the human rights situation in South Sudan: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/28/54	3	Annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Leila Zerrougui
A/HRC/28/55	3	Annual Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children
A/HRC/28/56	3	Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio
A/HRC/28/56/Add.1	3	Follow-up visit to Honduras
A/HRC/28/57	3	Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Farida Shaheed: copyright policy and the right to science and culture



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A/HRC/28/58	3	Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Catalina Devandas-Aguilar
A/HRC/28/59	3	Report of the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky: report on financial complicity: lending to States engaged in gross human rights violations
A/HRC/28/59/Add.1	3	Mission to Iceland (8–15 December 2014)
A/HRC/28/60	3	Illicit financial flows, human rights and the post-2015 development agenda - Interim study by the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky
A/HRC/28/60/Corr.1	3	Corrigendum
A/HRC/28/61	3	Report of the Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, John H. Knox: compilation of good practices
A/HRC/28/61/Add.1	3	Mission to France
A/HRC/28/61/Add.2	3	Visite en France: commentaires de l'état sur le rapport de l'expert indépendant
A/HRC/28/62	3	Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, Leilani Farha
A/HRC/28/63	3	Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Michel Forst
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A/HRC/28/65	3	Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Hilal Elver - Access to justice and the right to food: the way forward
A/HRC/28/66	3	Report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Heiner Bielefeldt
A/HRC/28/66/Add.1	3	Mission to Kazakhstan
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A/HRC/28/66/Add.3	3	Mission to the Republic of Kazakhstan : Comments by the State on the report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Heiner Bielefeldt
A/HRC/28/66/Add.4	3	Mission to Viet Nam: Comments by the State on the report of the Special Rapporteur
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A/HRC/28/68	3	Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Juan E. Méndez
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A/HRC/28/69	4	Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic
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A/HRC/28/73	3, 5	Final report of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on the issue of the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights
A/HRC/28/74	3, 5	Research-based progress report of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee containing recommendations on mechanisms to assess the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights and to promote accountability
A/HRC/28/75	3, 5	Report of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on the study on the situation of human rights of persons living with albinism
A/HRC/28/76	3, 5	Final research-based report of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on best practices and main challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights in post-disaster and post-conflict situations
A/HRC/28/77	5	Recommendations of the Forum on Minority Issues at its seventh session: Preventing and addressing violence and atrocity crimes targeted against minorities (25 and 26 November 2014)
A/HRC/28/78	7	Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Makarim Wibisono

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A/HRC/28/81	9	Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards on its sixth session
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A/HRC/28/L.5	3	The right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community on an equal basis with others
A/HRC/28/L.6	4	The continuing grave deterioration in the human rights and humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic
A/HRC/28/L.7 and Rev.1	10	Technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in Libya
A/HRC/28/L.8	3	The negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights, and the importance of improving international cooperation
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A/HRC/28/G/2	4	Letter dated 21 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council
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A/HRC/28/G/4	4	Letter dated 4 February 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council
A/HRC/28/G/5	4	Letter dated 5 February 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council
A/HRC/28/G/6	9	Note verbale dated 9 February 2015 from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva addressed to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council
A/HRC/28/G/7	4	Letter dated 23 February 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council
A/HRC/28/G/8	7	Note verbale dated 26 February 2015 from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council



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A/HRC/28/G/10	4	Letter dated 26 February 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council
A/HRC/28/G/11	4	Letter dated 20 February 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council
A/HRC/28/G/12	3	Note verbale dated 10 March 2015 by the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council
A/HRC/28/G/13	4	Letter dated 13 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council
A/HRC/28/G/14	4	Letter dated 16 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council
A/HRC/28/G/15	2, 3	Note verbale dated 13 March 2015 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Singapore to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland addressed to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council
A/HRC/28/G/16	2	Note verbale dated 20 March 2015 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
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		United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
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A/HRC/28/G/19	10	Note verbale dated 1 April 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

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A/HRC/28/NGO/3	2	Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/4	3	Written statement submitted by the Human Rights Advocates Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/5	2	Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/6	6	Written statement submitted by the Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture,

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A/HRC/28/NGO/9	4	Written statement submitted by the Center for Global Nonkilling, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/10	3	Written statement submitted by the Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/11	3	Written statement submitted by the Aliran Kesedaran Negara National Consciousness Movement, non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/28/NGO/12	5	Written statement submitted by the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/13	5	Joint written statement submitted by the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), a non-governmental organization in general consultative status, American Civil Liberties Union, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, Article 19 - The International Centre Against Censorship, non-governmental organization on the roster
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A/HRC/28/NGO/15	4	Written statement submitted by the European Centre for Law and Justice, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/16	3	Exposé écrit présenté par le European Centre for Law and Justice, organisation non gouvernementale dotée du statut consultatif spécial
A/HRC/28/NGO/17	3	Exposé écrit présenté par le European Centre for Law and Justice, organisation non gouvernementale dotée du statut consultatif special
A/HRC/28/NGO/18	3	Exposé écrit présenté par le European Centre for Law and Justice, organisation non gouvernementale dotée du statut consultatif spécial
A/HRC/28/NGO/19	4	Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/20	2	Written statement submitted by the Federacion de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promocion de los Derechos Humanos, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/21	2	Written statement submitted by the Federacion de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promocion de los Derechos Humanos, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/22	4	Written statement submitted by the Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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A/HRC/28/NGO/25	4	Exposición escrita presentada por el Asociación Cubana de las Naciones Unidas, organización no gubernamental reconocida como entidad consultiva especial
A/HRC/28/NGO/26	3	Exposición escrita presentada por la Permanent Assembly for Human Rights, organización no gubernamental reconocida como entidad consultiva especial
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A/HRC/28/NGO/28	3	Written statement submitted by the Human Rights Advocates Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/29	3	Written statement submitted by Human Rights Advocates Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/30	3	Written statement submitted by Human Rights Advocates Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/31	3	Written statement submitted by the Human Rights Advocates Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/32	3	Written statement submitted by the Human Rights Advocates Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
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A/HRC/28/NGO/36	3	Written statement submitted by the International Humanist and Ethical Union, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/37	3	Written statement submitted by the Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights (JKCHR), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/38	4	Written statement submitted by the Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights (JKCHR), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/39	4	Written statement submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/40	3	Joint written statement submitted by Asociación Española para el Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos AEDIDH, American Association of Jurists, Arab African American Womens' Leadership Council Inc., Association Graines de Paix, Association Mauritanienne pour la promotion du droit, Association pour l'Intégration et le Développement Durable au Burundi, Atheist Alliance International, Bangwe et Dialogue, Centre for Democracy and Development, Cultural Survival, Fondation pour le

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A/HRC/28/NGO/41	4	Written statement submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/42	3	Written statement submitted by the

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A/HRC/28/NGO/44	4	Written statement submitted by the International Educational Development, Inc., a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/28/NGO/45	9	Written statement submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/46	3	Written statement submitted by the Reporters Sans Frontiers International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/47	3	Written statement submitted by the Reporters Sans Frontiers International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/48	3	Written statement submitted by the Reporters Sans Frontiers International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/49	3	Written statement submitted by the Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/50	3	Written statement submitted by the Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/51	4	Written statement submitted by the People for Successful Corean Reunification, a non-



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A/HRC/28/NGO/53	3	Written statement submitted by the Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/54	3	Written statement submitted by the Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/55	7	Written statement submitted by the Amuta for NGO Responsibility, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/56	4	Written statement submitted by the International Educational Development, Inc., a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/28/NGO/57	7	Written statement submitted by the Amuta for NGO Responsibility, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/58	7	Written statement submitted by the Amuta for NGO Responsibility, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/59	7	Written statement submitted by the Amuta for NGO Responsibility, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/60	3	Joint written statement submitted by the France Libertes : Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, American Association of Jurists, Emmaus International Association, Peace Brigades International Switzerland, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status

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A/HRC/28/NGO/61	3	Joint written statement submitted by the France Libertes : Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, American Association of Jurists, Emmaus International Association, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/62	3	Joint written statement submitted by the France Libertes : Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, Advocates for Human Rights, American Association of Jurists, Cultural Survival, Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, Society for Threatened Peoples, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/63	3	Written statement submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/64	3	Written statement submitted by the Liberal International (World Liberal Union), a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/65	3	Written statement submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/66	4	Written statement submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/67	3	Written statement submitted by the Amuta for NGO Responsibility, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/68	3	Written statement submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/69	3	Written statement submitted by the Al Zubair Charitable Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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A/HRC/28/NGO/70	3	Joint written statement submitted by the France Libertes : Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, Cultural Survival, Society for Threatened Peoples, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, Survival International Ltd., non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/28/NGO/71	3	Written statement submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/72	3	Written statement submitted the Minbyun-Lawyers for a Democratic Society, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/73	4	Written statement submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/74	10	Written statement submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/75	3	Written statement submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/76	4	Written statement submitted by the Arab NGO Network for Development, non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/28/NGO/77	3	Joint written statement submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, Anti-Slavery International, Minority Rights Group, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/78	3	Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/79	3	Written statement submitted by the Al-Khoei

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A/HRC/28/NGO/81	3	Written statement submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/82	3	Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/83	3	Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/84	3	Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/85	3	Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/86	3	Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/87	2	Written statement submitted by the Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation, non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/88	3	Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/89	5	Written statement submitted by the Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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A/HRC/28/NGO/90	3	Written statement submitted by the Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/91	3	Joint written statement submitted by the France Libertes : Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, American Association of Jurists, Cultural Survival, Emmaus International Association, Stichting Forest Peoples Programme, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/92	3	Written statement submitted by the Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/93	7	Written statement submitted by the BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/94	4	Written statement submitted by the Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/95	3	Written statement submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/96	3	Written statement submitted by the Nazra for Feminist Studies, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/97	3	Written statement submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/98	3	Joint written statement submitted by the France Libertes : Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, American Association of Jurists, Emmaus International Association, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status

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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
A/HRC/28/NGO/99	4	Written statement submitted by the International Humanist and Ethical Union, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/100	2	Written statement submitted by the International Bar Association, non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/101	3	Written statement submitted by the Foundation ECPAT International (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/102	3	Written statement submitted by the Servas International, a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/28/NGO/103	2	Written statement submitted by the AUA Americas Chapter Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/104	4	Written statement submitted by the Article 19 – The International Centre Against Censorship, a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/28/NGO/105	3	Written statement submitted by the Social Service Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/106	3	Written statement submitted by the European Centre for Law and Justice, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/107	7	Written statement submitted by the Defence for Children International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/108	8	Written statement submitted by the Asian-Eurasian Human Rights Forum, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/109	8	Exposé écrit présenté par Liberation, organisation non-gouvernementale inscrite sur la liste
A/HRC/28/NGO/110	3	Written statement submitted by the Iranian Elite Research Center, a non-governmental

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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
		organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/111	3	Written statement submitted by the Liberation, a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/28/NGO/112	3	Written statement submitted by the British Humanist Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/113	4	Joint written statement submitted by the Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational and Transparty, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status; Women's Human Rights International Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/114	3	Written statement submitted by the Friends World Committee for Consultation, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/115	3	Written statement submitted by the Friends World Committee for Consultation, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/116	3	Written statement submitted by the Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/117	3	Written statement submitted by the Friends World Committee for Consultation, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/118	4	Written statement submitted by the Human Rights Now, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/119	3	Written statement submitted by the Human Rights Now, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/120	3	Written statement submitted by the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/121	6	Written statement submitted by the Human Rights Now, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/122	3	Written statement submitted by the Human Rights Now, a non-governmental

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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
		organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/123	3	Written statement submitted by the Jubilee Campaign, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/124	4	Written statement submitted by the Jubilee Campaign, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/125	3	Written statement submitted by the Institut international pour la paix, la justice et les droits de l'Homme- IIPJDH, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/126	2	Written statement submitted by the Jubilee Campaign, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/127	3	Written statement submitted by the Institut international pour la paix, la justice et les droits de l'Homme - IIPJDH, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/128	4	Written statement submitted by the Jubilee Campaign, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/129	3	Written statement submitted by the AUA Americas Chapter Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/130	9	Written statement submitted by the International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/131	6	Written statement submitted by the Advocates for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/132	3	Written statement submitted by the ADALAH – Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/133	9	Written statement submitted by the International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/134	4	Written statement submitted by the International Union of Socialist Youth, a



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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
		non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/135	7	Written statement submitted by the Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/136	7	Joint written statement submitted by the ADALAH – Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights, Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/137	3	Written statement submitted by the Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/138	6	Written statement submitted by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/139	3	Written statement submitted by the International Association against Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/140	3	Written statement submitted by the Jubilee Campaign, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/141	3	Written statement submitted by the Jubilee Campaign, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/142	6	Exposé écrit présenté conjointement par Franciscans International, organisation non gouvernementale dotée du statut consultatif général, International Catholic Child Bureau, Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale ONLUS, International Association of Charities, organisations non gouvernementales dotées du statut consultatif spécial
A/HRC/28/NGO/143	4	Written statement submitted by the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
A/HRC/28/NGO/144	3	Written statement submitted by the Friends World Committee for Consultation, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/145	4	Written statement submitted by the International Association against Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/146	7	Written statement submitted by the Al-Haq, Law in the service of man, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/147	3	Written statement submitted by the Union of Arab Jurists, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/148	2	Written statement submitted by the Union of Arab Jurists, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/149	3	Written statement submitted by the Union of Arab Jurists, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/150	3	Joint written statement submitted by International Movement ATD Fourth World, Mouvement Mondial des Mères International, New Humanity, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII, Association Graines de Paix, BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Edmund Rice International Limited, Femmes Afrique Solidarité, Foundation for GAIA, International Association of Charities, International Confederation of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, International Federation of Family Associations of Missing Persons from Armed Conflicts, International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR), International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development -VIDES, Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco, Nonviolent Peaceforce, Pax Christi International,

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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
		International Catholic Peace Movement, Planetary Association for Clean Energy, Inc., The, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, World for World Organization, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, International Society for Human Rights, non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/28/NGO/151	4	Written statement submitted by the Women's Human Rights International Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/152	4	Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/153	3	Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/154	2	Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/155	3	Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/156	7	Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/157	6	Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/158	3	Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/159	2	Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/160	4	Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/161	4	Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/162	4	Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
A/HRC/28/NGO/163	4	Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/164	3	Written statement submitted by the International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty – Association Internationale Pour La Défense de la Liberté, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/165	2	Exposición escrita presentada por Federation of Cuban Women-Federación de Mujeres Cubanas, organización no gubernamental reconocida como entidad consultiva especial
A/HRC/28/NGO/166	3	Written statement submitted by the International Service for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/167	2	Written statement submitted by the Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights (JKCHR), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/168	9	Written statement submitted by the International Association Against Torture, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/169	6	Written statement submitted by the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/170	3	Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/28/NGO/171	5	Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
A/HRC/28/NI/1	6	Written submission by the Australian Human Rights Commission: note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/28/NI/2	7	Information presented by the Palestinian

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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
		Independent Commission for Human Rights: note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/28/NI/3	7	Information presented by the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights: note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/28/NI/4	7	Information presented by the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights: note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/28/NI/5	5	Information presented by the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights of Hungary: note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/28/NI/6	6	Information presented by the National Council for Human Rights of Egypt: note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/28/NI/7	5	Information presented by the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan: note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/28/NI/8	3	Information submitted by the Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Americas: note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/28/NI/8/Corr.1	3	Corrección
A/HRC/28/NI/8/Corr.2	3	Corrigendum
A/HRC/28/NI/9	3	Information submitted by the Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Americas: note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/28/NI/9/Corr.1	3	Corrección
A/HRC/28/NI/9/Corr.2	3	Corrigendum
A/HRC/28/NI/10	3	Information submitted by the Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Americas : note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/28/NI/10/Corr.1	3	Corrección
A/HRC/28/NI/10/Corr.2	3	Corrigendum
A/HRC/28/NI/11	3	Information submitted by the Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Americas: note by the Secretariat

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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
A/HRC/28/NI/11/Corr.1	3	Corrección
A/HRC/28/NI/11/Corr.2	3	Corrigendum

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## **Annex IV**

### **Special procedures mandate holders appointed by the Human Rights Council at its twenty-eighth session**

#### **Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (member from African States)**

Albert Kwokwo Barume (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

#### **Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights**

Idriss Jazairy (Algeria)

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

Rhona Smith (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

#### **Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (member from Latin American and Caribbean States)**

Dante Pesce (Chile)

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