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Universal Periodic Review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Sao Tomé and Príncipe

* The annex to the present report is circulated as received

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its twenty-third session from 2 to 13 November 2015. The review of Sao Tomé and Príncipe was held at the 16th meeting on 11 November 2015. The delegation of Sao Tomé and Príncipe was headed by H.E. Mr Roberto Pedro Raposo, Minister of Justice and Human Rights. At its 18th meeting held on 13 November 2015, the Working Group adopted the report on Sao Tomé and Príncipe.
2. On 13 January 2015, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Sao Tomé and Príncipe: Botswana, India and Paraguay.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Sao Tomé and Príncipe:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/23/STP/1);
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/23/STP/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/23/STP/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Germany, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, Spain and United Kingdom of Britain and Northern Ireland, was transmitted to Sao Tomé and Príncipe through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the UPR.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. M. Roberto Pedro RAPOSO, ministre de la Justice et des droits de l'homme de São Tomé-et-Príncipe, a présenté le rapport national pour le deuxième Examen périodique universel (EPU).
6. Après son indépendance le 12 juillet 1975, la République démocratique de São Tomé-et-Príncipe a décidé de construire un État démocratique fondé sur les droits fondamentaux et le respect des principes de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme et de la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples.
7. En tant qu'État membre des Nations Unies, la République démocratique de São Tomé-et-Príncipe a présenté, pour la première fois, son rapport national en février 2011, lors de la 10^{ème} session de l'EPU, résultant en un ensemble de recommandations faites par les États participants lors du dialogue interactif.
8. Pour démontrer les avancées, les défis et les bonnes pratiques durant la période sous examen, de 2011 à 2015, le présent rapport a été rédigé à base des recommandations de la 10^{ème} session de l'EPU, acceptées par le pays, et vise à évaluer le degré de mise en œuvre des engagements relatifs à la promotion et à la protection des droits de l'homme.

9. Le ministère de la Justice et des droits de l'homme, l'administration chargée de la coordination et de l'élaboration de ce rapport, a créé une commission interministérielle à cet effet et a demandé des contributions d'autres institutions gouvernementales et des organisations de la société civile, dans l'objectif de promouvoir une plus grande inclusion et la participation de tous.
10. Afin d'améliorer la procédure d'élaboration du rapport, un atelier de consultation publique a également été réalisé avec des organismes étatiques et la société civile.
11. La délégation a déclaré que la protection et la promotion des droits de l'homme, consacrés dans la Constitution de São Tomé-et-Príncipe, constituent la base de cet État souverain et indépendant, engagé à bâtir une société juste, inclusive et solidaire dans la défense des droits de l'homme.
12. Elle a également souligné que la consolidation de sa démocratie a été accompagnée par un renforcement de l'État de droit, mais aussi par la réalisation de pratiques participatives de contrôle social et par un ensemble de réformes structurelles dans divers domaines socio-économiques et politiques et dans le secteur de la justice. Ceci, dans le plein respect des conventions et traités internationaux, en incorporant et en appliquant les dispositions de ces instruments internationaux de droits de l'homme dans la législation interne.
13. La délégation a déclaré que le gouvernement était conscient que l'organisation de la justice doit être pensée du point de vue de ses utilisateurs, en privilégiant la spécialisation des tribunaux de manière à faciliter l'accès des citoyens à une justice meilleure.
14. La délégation a souligné que les politiques publiques ont été développées avec la participation de la société civile, notamment dans la préparation du budget participatif.
15. Le Gouvernement constitutionnel XVI, dans son programme de gouvernance, a établi comme priorité de résoudre trois problèmes fondamentaux: le chômage qui affecte une large couche de la population, le coût élevé de la vie qui touche considérablement les populations les plus vulnérables, et la diminution de l'écart grandissant entre dirigeants et dirigés.
16. La délégation a également souligné que les efforts des autorités, avec l'appui de ses partenaires au développement, ont contribué à lutter contre le paludisme et la tuberculose. Le nombre de décès dus au paludisme a chuté de 0,009 pour mille habitants en 2010, à 0,004 pour mille en 2012. Les soins pour les personnes vivant avec le VIH / SIDA ont également été améliorés.
17. São Tomé-et-Príncipe fait face à un certain nombre de défis, notamment un taux de chômage élevé; une administration publique sous-développée, bureaucratique et centralisée; une éducation et formation inadéquate de ses ressources humaines; de sérieux déséquilibres sociaux et territoriaux; une image externe défavorable aux investissements privés directs; une dispersion récurrente de ses ressources limitées; la taille du marché; le manque d'infrastructures économiques et sociales; et la faiblesse des capacités du secteur privé, entre autres.
18. Le Gouvernement constitutionnel XVI s'est engagé à créer les conditions pour la diversification et la croissance de l'économie et pour améliorer le secteur des affaires afin d'attirer l'investissement direct étranger; à assurer une bonne gestion des finances publiques; à investir dans la modernisation des infrastructures économiques et sociales, le renforcement de la cohésion sociale nationale et la crédibilité du pays à l'étranger; à adopter une politique gouvernementale transparente; à renforcer l'administration locale, les relations extérieures et la coopération; et à optimiser le capital humain afin d'atténuer les défis et d'assurer efficacement la promotion et la défense des valeurs humaines.

19. Conscient des dysfonctionnements persistants et multiples dans le système judiciaire, ayants des effets négatifs sur l'activité économique et les citoyens, le XVI^e Gouvernement Constitutionnel considère qu'il est essentiel de rendre la justice plus fiable, et proche de ses citoyens.

20. Plusieurs mesures ont été mises en œuvre à cet effet, les plus importantes étant l'approbation de la loi fondamentale sur le système judiciaire; l'institutionnalisation de l'instruction comme phase procédurale unique et du juge d'instruction; l'élaboration et l'approbation de la législation pénale et de la procédure pénale; la création du mandat de juge d'exécution des peines; l'approbation de la loi sur l'assistance judiciaire et le conseil juridique; l'approbation de la loi sur la violence domestique; la création du guichet unique pour les entreprises; et diverses améliorations au niveau des services du registre et du notariat, et de leur informatisation.

21. Concernant les instruments internationaux, São Tomé-et-Príncipe a ratifié la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant, la Convention relative à l'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination à l'égard des femmes, la Convention relative aux droits des personnes handicapées, et la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples.

22. Bien que les autres conventions n'aient pas encore été ratifiées, la délégation a relevé que Sao Tomé et Príncipe avait adopté des mesures juridiques, institutionnelles et administratives visant à garantir à tous ceux qui vivent sous sa juridiction territoriale une vie libre et digne en harmonie avec les principes des droits de l'homme.

23. La délégation a ajouté que le Gouvernement et ses partenaires, notamment le PNUD et le CNUDHDAC, étaient engagés dans la création d'une institution nationale pour les droits de l'homme (INDH), en conformité avec les principes de Paris. Ainsi, en avril 2014, a eu lieu à Sao Tomé un séminaire réunissant des représentants du Gouvernement, de la société civile et des agences onusiennes, afin de réfléchir sur un modèle d'INDH adapté à la réalité nationale.

24. La délégation a déclaré que, tout en tenant compte de la spécificité du pays, le Conseil de Ministres, réuni en session ordinaire les 22 et 23 août 2015, avait réfléchi à la création d'un poste de médiateur et que les statuts pour sa mise œuvre étaient en cours d'élaboration.

25. La délégation a estimé que la Constitution garantissait la protection de tous les droits civils, politiques, économiques, sociaux et culturels des citoyens.

26. En ce qui concerne la promotion des droits des femmes et de l'égalité du genre, la délégation a rappelé que le Gouvernement avait ratifié la Convention sur l'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination contre la femme. En outre, il a pris des mesures législatives et institutionnelles, démontrant ainsi son engagement dans le processus d'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination contre les femmes et dans la promotion de l'égalité du genre.

27. La délégation a relevé que la stratégie nationale pour la promotion de l'égalité et de l'équité du genre avait été adoptée et que l'Institut national pour la promotion de l'égalité et de l'équité du genre (INPG) avait reçu pour mission d'assurer la promotion et l'exécution de la politique gouvernementale en matière de promotion de la femme, de l'égalité et l'équité du genre dans le pays.

28. Concernant la protection des enfants, la délégation a rappelé que Sao Tomé et Príncipe avait ratifié les principales conventions internationales, à savoir la Convention des Nations Unies sur les Droits de l'Enfant (CDC); la Convention n°138 de l'OIT concernant l'âge minimum d'admission à l'emploi; la Convention n°182 concernant la prévention et l'action immédiate pour l'élimination des pires formes de travail infantile; la Convention

concernant l'inspection du travail; la Convention concernant le travail forcé et la Convention concernant l'abolition du travail forcé.

29. En tant qu'État partie à ces conventions, Sao Tomé et Príncipe a pris des mesures en vue de sauvegarder les droits de l'enfant. Ainsi, la Constitution, les lois nationales et les politiques publiques visent à combattre la discrimination, l'exploitation, la violence sexuelle, le trafic et les mauvais traitements des enfants, avec pour objectif de garantir le développement des enfants ainsi que la promotion et protection de leurs droits, conformément aux principes établis dans la CDC.

30. La délégation a souligné le nouveau code pénal prévoyait plusieurs articles visant à protéger les droits des enfants et sanctionner sévèrement n'importe quelle violation de ces droits.

31. En collaboration avec les partenaires sociaux et de développement, le Gouvernement a démontré son engagement pour la protection de l'enfant par l'élaboration, la validation et l'adoption de la politique et stratégie nationale de protection sociale; par des directives pour les enfants en soins alternatifs; par le programme des 1.000 premiers jours les plus critiques de l'enfant; par le programme d'éducation parentale; par la production de spots nationaux sur la promotion et la divulgation des droits de enfants. Il a également procédé à l'élaboration et à la validation du premier document de politique nationale de protection de l'enfant à Sao Tomé et Príncipe qui fournit des orientations pour les activités dans le domaine de la prévention, de la participation et de la répression des auteurs de toute forme de violence, d'abus ou d'exploitation d'enfants. Cette politique constitue un instrument privilégié pour le système de protection de l'enfant à Sao Tomé et Príncipe.

32. En conclusion, la délégation a réaffirmé, au nom du Gouvernement, sa conscience de l'importance des traités et conventions internationales pour la protection et la promotion des droits de l'homme et de la démocratie. Elle a ajouté que ces conventions et traités seront soumis, ce mois-ci, à l'Assemblée nationale pour approbation et ratification ultérieure.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

33. During the interactive dialogue, 51 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report

34. Angola expressed its satisfaction with the process of reform of the justice sector that the government has implemented aimed at improving quality the judicial system. It encouraged Sao Tome and Principe to continue its efforts aimed at improving the conditions of prisoners, taking account of their human rights. It also supported the measures taken to curb the rural exodus and improve socio-economic conditions of people in rural areas. Angola made recommendations.

35. Canada welcomed the steps taken by Sao Tome and Principe to implement the Millennium Development Goals. It commended the country for the progress achieved on ensuring primary education for all and reducing child mortality. Canada expressed concern about continued reports of pervasive domestic violence, and women's reluctance to bring legal action. It also stressed the importance of addressing these issues, including by raising awareness about domestic violence. Canada made recommendations.

36. Chad noted with satisfaction the consultative procedure used for the elaboration of the national report, and the significant advances in human rights; including the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of discrimination Against women, the Convention on the rights of disabled persons and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. Chad made no recommendations.

37. Chile encouraged Sao Tome and Principe to continue on the path of promotion and protection of human rights. It also noted the progress achieved in the field of access to health services, such as coverage given to pregnant women, children less than 5 years old and chronically ill. Chile made recommendations.

38. The Congo welcomed the adoption of the laws regarding the establishment of a juvenile Court and the review of the Criminal Code for children victims of abuse. It inquired about the measures taken to improve the combat of all kinds of discrimination against vulnerable populations, cases of early marriage, the rate of young women in a situation of failure or dropout as well as children not reported to the civil registration after birth. The Congo made recommendations.

39. Costa Rica urged Sao Tome and Principe to continue strengthening institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, and establish a human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles. It noted with concern the identified cases of corporal punishment on children, and urged the creation the legal regulations necessary to protect children, consistent with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Costa Rica made recommendations.

40. Cuba highlighted the steps taken by Sao Tome and Principe regarding the implementation of key international and regional human rights instruments and congratulated it on the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It highlighted the reform of the justice sector and the ongoing work to restructure it and noted the progress made in reducing child mortality in the country and the efforts to reduce poverty. Cuba made recommendations.

41. The Democratic Republic of the Congo noted the success of Sao Tome and Principe in the areas of food security, drinking water supply and transparency in the extractive industry, the progress in the rights of women and children and the development of an ambitious program for a deep reform of the justice sector. Nevertheless, it indicated there were still many pending issues. The Democratic Republic of the Congo made recommendations.

42. Denmark was pleased to note the accepted recommendations by Sao Tome and Principe to ratify the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment. It hoped that concrete steps were being undertaken to honour this commitment and would be grateful if the delegation could elaborate on the steps taken. Denmark highlighted that the Convention stands ready to assist the Government in advancing on this issue. Denmark made recommendations.

43. Djibouti welcomed the progress made by Sao Tome and Principe in the promotion and protection of human rights. Djibouti made recommendations.

44. Egypt noted Sao Tome and Principe' s National Strategy to combat poverty 2012-2016, the amendments to the criminal code to criminalize exploitation of minors and sexual abuse, and steps taken to create a tribunal for minors. It encouraged the Government to take the necessary practical measures to ensure that this tribunal becomes operational and provided with the necessary administrative and financial resources to function correctly. Egypt made recommendations.

45. Equatorial Guinea noted the recent measures taken by Sao Tome and Principe in favour of the plan for the 2015-2030 horizons; contributing to building a democratic society and respect for fundamental rights. It congratulated the creation of a government department dedicated to human rights, including the designation of a Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. It also noted with satisfaction all initiatives to improve the protection and promotion of child rights. Equatorial Guinea made recommendations.

46. Estonia welcomed the initiative to introduce digital public services, and invited the Government to activate the system and make full use of it. It noted that the revision of the Penal Code in 2012 was a positive step. Nevertheless the situation of children is alarming, the issues of child abuse and exploitation, traditional harmful practices and corporal punishment need more attention. It invited the Government to fully commit improving the situation of children. Estonia made recommendations.

47. Ethiopia highlighted the adoption of the poverty reduction strategy plan 2012-2016 and the achievements so far. It commended Sao Tome and Principe to commit to fulfil the Economic Social and Cultural rights of its people with the allocation of budgetary increase in the progress of education and health. Ethiopia made recommendations.

48. France welcomed the progress made by Sao Tome and Principe, in particular the recent ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the decriminalization of relations between consenting adults of the same sex in accordance with the principle of non-discrimination. France made recommendations.

49. Gabon welcomed the measures to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights, and to improve the normative and institutional framework. It noted with satisfaction the adoption of the law on judicial system and the revision in 2012 of the Penal Code. It particularly welcomed the establishment of the Reference Centre on Domestic Violence and encouraged Sao Tome and Principe to persevere in the promotion and protection of human rights. Gabon made no recommendations.

50. Germany appreciated the progress made by Sao Tome and Principe since its last UPR, in particular the strengthening of democratic processes. It also welcomed the Government's efforts in combatting against child labor and in improving the administration of justice. Germany encouraged the Government to continue improving its human rights records in fields such as children's rights, gender equality and detention facilities. Germany made recommendations.

51. Maldives welcomed the establishment of the Counselling Centre against Domestic Violence and the importance attached to health. It further took positive note of the adoption of the Education and Training Strategy 2007-2017. Maldives made recommendations.

52. Indonesia commended São Tomé and Príncipe's continued engagement with the UPR process. It noted a number of measures taken to manage the risk of exploitation of migrants. However, it believed further efforts could be made, including by strengthening legal frameworks. Indonesia also took note of the efforts to eradicate acts of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, through inter alia revision of the Penal Code and adoption of the Law on the Judiciary System. It made recommendations.

53. Ireland commended the new Penal Code which ceases to criminalise consenting same-sex relations between adults. It encouraged taking the necessary steps to combat discrimination against LGBTI persons in all areas of life. Ireland welcomed positive developments in promoting rights of children and commended steps to criminalise trafficking of minors. However, Ireland remained concerned at reports of child trafficking and exploitation, including the barriers to rehabilitation of child victims. It noted little progress had been made towards establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with Paris Principles, despite São Tomé and Príncipe had accepted all recommendation in this regard in 2011. Ireland made recommendations.

54. Ghana lauded the establishment of the Counselling Centre in Sao Tome and Principe to address issues related to domestic violence. While welcoming the improvement in the registration of birth, it expressed concern that significant numbers of children still did not have birth certificates. Ghana made recommendations

55. Mexico welcomed the increase in the birth registration rate. As a promoter of the resolution on birth registration, it congratulated São Tomé and Príncipe for this progress and encouraged continuing efforts conducive to full coverage of the registration. Furthermore, Mexico positively valued the implementation of the Education and Training Strategy 2007-2017. Mexico offered to share good practices and experiences in the field of human rights that may contribute to the implementation of relevant recommendations. It made recommendations.

56. Montenegro welcomed significant progress in providing primary health care services, and increases in the Government's allocations for health and education. It inquired about the strategies and plans for the improvement of accessibility and quality of education, particularly for girls, children living in rural areas, pregnant adolescents and adolescent mothers. Montenegro noted concerns of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. It enquired about action undertaken to provide protection and rehabilitation for children in street situations, social reintegration of children victims of sexual abuse, trafficking, exploitation and for establishing the legal framework for adoptions. Montenegro made recommendations.

57. Morocco appreciated São Tomé and Príncipe's constant care to strengthen its national human rights architecture. It commended the implementation of justice sector reforms so as to improve the quality of the judiciary, fight corruption and accelerate the proceedings system. It congratulated reaching the first Millennium Development Goal by effective coordination of actions in the area of food security. Morocco made recommendations.

58. Mozambique noted the political difficulties São Tomé and Príncipe went through, which may explain, in part, the challenges faced in the realm of human rights. It welcomed the establishment of the Counselling Centre against Domestic Violence and the revision of the Penal Code, now including provisions on sexual abuse, exploitation of minors and child trafficking. Mozambique praised the adoption of the Law on the Judiciary System and of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan 2012-2016. It made recommendations.

59. Namibia welcomed the considerable improvement of the birth registration rate and trusted that São Tomé and Príncipe would continue ensuring that all children be registered as soon as possible after birth. It commended the adoption of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan 2012-2016 and asked about progress made in the implementation of that plan. Namibia made recommendations.

60. The Netherlands welcomed the adoption of the Law on the Judiciary System, which provided for the creation of a juvenile court, and the establishment of the Counselling Centre against Domestic Violence. It noted with appreciation the decriminalisation of same-sex sexual activity between consenting adults, but noted there was as yet no legal protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. It regretted commitments made during previous UPR session regarding the protection of child rights and the ratification of major international human rights instruments, had not been followed up to date. The Netherlands made recommendations.

61. Nigeria expressed solidarity with the Government and people of São Tomé and Príncipe and commended their continued constructive engagement with the OHCHR. It appreciated efforts made towards the establishment of the Counselling Centre against Domestic Violence. Nigeria commended efforts towards providing access to safe drinking water and the recent positive developments recorded in the area of primary health-care services, and in this connection, acknowledged the significant progress in reducing infant mortality rates. Nigeria made recommendations.

62. The Philippines recognized efforts undertaken, with the support of São Tomé and Príncipe's international partners, to pursue judicial reforms as well as measures aiming at

implementing recommendations of last UPR. It encouraged continuing taking steps towards ratification of core international human rights treaties and aligning its domestic legislation with international human rights standards. It appreciated strategies for the protection of the human rights of those who are vulnerable, such as women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, but noted the need to enhance and monitor the implementation of these programs. The Philippines made recommendations.

63. Poland acknowledged efforts undertaken to comply with the recommendations accepted during the first UPR cycle. It noted with appreciation some progress in the field of the rights of minors, such as including provisions on sexual abuse, exploitation of minors and child trafficking in its Penal Code. It also appreciated the improvement in the birth registration rate and the creation of the juvenile court, whilst recognizing there still was room for further improvement in the protection of the rights of the child. Poland made recommendations.

64. Portugal commended the decision to provide the Office of the Ombudsman with the necessary competences for the acquisition of the status of human rights institution. It welcomed the establishment of the Counselling Centre against Domestic Violence. Portugal made recommendations.

65. Rwanda commended the adoption of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan 2012-2016 and the recent increases in the State's budgetary allocations for health and education. It welcomed the revision of the Penal Code in 2012 to explicitly include provisions on sexual abuse, exploitation of minors and child trafficking. Rwanda also recognized the adoption of the Law on the Judiciary System which provides for the creation of a juvenile court, as a positive step towards justice and the rule of law. It made recommendations.

66. Senegal congratulated the standing invitation extended to mandate holders and took note of the development of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan 2012-2016. It noted several measures contributing to the promotion of economic and social rights: the free of charge primary health care and medication for children under the age of five and pregnant women; efforts towards decreasing the infant mortality rate; and the access to drinking water for 60% of its rural residents. Senegal invited the international community to provide São Tomé and Príncipe with all necessary assistance. Senegal made recommendations.

67. Sierra Leone noted the recent ratification of the CRPD, the National Poverty Reduction Strategy and the justice sector reforms. It urged São Tomé and Príncipe to reinstate the Child Rights Committee and grant it the necessary resources. Sierra Leone welcomed various strategies to promote food security, as well as establishing a thirty percent quota for the participation of women in Parliament. It encouraged ensuring free birth registration and facilitating the issuance of birth certificates. It believed that fostering regional partnerships would be vital in assisting developing sustainable strategies to mitigate and adapt to the adverse impact of climate change. Sierra Leone made recommendations.

68. Slovenia noted positive development since the first review, such as the 2012 revision of the Penal Code to include provisions on sexual abuse, exploitation of minors and child trafficking, the establishment of the Counselling Centre against Domestic Violence, improvements in birth registration, reduction in infant and under-5 mortality, and an increase in primary school enrolment. It was, however, also concerned about the situation of children. It made recommendations.

69. South Africa noted that Sao Tome and Principe had made efforts towards the implementation of the recommendations accepted during its first cycle review, notwithstanding all the challenges. South Africa made recommendations.

70. Spain acknowledged the efforts made by Sao Tome and Principe in the field of human rights, including the recent ratification of CRPD and the establishment of the Counselling Centre against Domestic Violence. It stated that the major progress had been made with the revision of the Criminal Code, which included provisions on sexual abuse, child trafficking and exploitation. It made recommendations.

71. Timor-Leste commended the establishment of a Counselling Centre against Domestic Violence, adoption of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan and the increases in the State's budgetary allocations for health and education. It also praised the revision of the Criminal Code in 2012 to include provisions on sexual abuse, exploitation and child trafficking. Timor-Leste made recommendations.

72. Togo was pleased that Sao Tome and Principe continued to improve the quality of accessibility to education for all and noted with satisfaction the improvement of the birth registration rate and measures taken to combat domestic violence. It also commended the revision of the Criminal Code in 2012, introducing provisions on sexual violence, exploitation of minors, and child trafficking, among others. It made recommendations.

73. Turkey commended efforts made for the promotion and protection of human rights and encouraged Sao Tome and Principe to implement specific measures in the framework defined by international human rights instruments. It noted with satisfaction strategic actions to eliminate discrimination against women, to combat poverty, to take care of street children, to ensure free health services for small children, and to increase the primary school enrolment rate. It made recommendations.

74. Ukraine commended the measures aimed at ensuring that the national legislation is harmonized with the main principles and standards of international human rights documents, as well as ratification of CRPD. It also noted that information about specific measures and activities in promotion and protection of human rights during 2011-2015 could have been better reflected in the report. It made recommendations.

75. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland recognized the significant challenges that Sao Tome and Principe faced to tackle poverty, corruption, and a low educational attainment rate. It also welcomed the significant efforts on education, gender parity and health but also recognized that improvements were still needed, including on prison conditions. It made recommendations.

76. The United States of America commended Sao Tome and Principe's human rights record, particularly with regard to women's rights, religious freedom, free and fair elections and peaceful transfer of power. However, it remained concerned that some minors were engaged in child labour through domestic service and street work, hindering them from completing their primary education. It made recommendations.

77. Uruguay encouraged Sao Tome and Principe to redouble efforts to increase participation in the international human rights mechanisms, cooperating with different actors, including OHCHR. It congratulated the 2012 revision of the Criminal Code and encouraged Sao Tome and Principe to consider ratifying international human rights instruments. It was concerned that domestic violence and ill-treatment of children seemed prevalent in the country. It made recommendations.

78. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela highlighted the ratification of CRPD and was pleased at the steps taken to create a national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles. It underlined the policies to eliminate illiteracy and commended the fact that the basic education was compulsory and free. It made recommendations.

79. Algeria congratulated the elaboration of the programme to reform the judiciary in 2015, as well as steps taken to harmonize domestic law with international human rights

standards. It also noted with satisfaction the efforts undertaken in the field of education, health and poverty reduction despite economic difficulties. It made recommendations.

80. Cabo Verde highlighted the successes in the field of food security and agricultural development; fight against malaria and HIV/AIDS; supply of drinking water to the population; transparency in the mining industry; announcement on the immediate ratification of core international human rights instruments; adoption of a programme to reform the judicial sector and a respective action plan for 2016-2019; and the projects to improve the penitentiary system. It made recommendations.

81. Argentina welcomed the delegation of Sao Tome and Principe and thanked for the presentation of the national report. It congratulated the adoption of the Education Training Strategy 2007-2017 with inclusive education programmes. It made recommendations.

82. Armenia appreciated the steps taken to promote the right to health, particularly the primary health care services that provided free consultations and medication for children under 5 years of age, pregnant women, chronically ill persons and children under the national school health programme. It also encouraged Sao Tome and Principe to ensure equal opportunities for men and women to access all levels of education. It made recommendations.

83. Australia commended the appointment of the first Minister for Justice and Human Rights; the priority given to addressing domestic violence; and the legalisation of same-sex relations between consenting adults. It also welcomed the work being undertaken to establish a National Human Rights Institution in line with the Paris Principles, including the establishment of an Inter-ministerial Human Rights Commission. It made recommendations.

84. Son Excellence le Ministre de la Justice de Sao Tomé et Príncipe remercia les intervenants pour les recommandations et pour la reconnaissance du relatif progrès que São Tomé et Príncipe avait obtenu depuis la présentation de son premier rapport en 2011. Il réitéra l'engagement de Sao Tomé et Príncipe de ratifier les Conventions, en tenant compte de l'importance de Conventions internationales pour la promotion et la protection des droits de l'homme. Réaffirmant l'approbation du gouvernement des procédures administratives internes pour que toutes ces Conventions soient ratifiées, dans les délais les plus brefs vu que la plupart de ces Conventions ont déjà été signées. La mise en application de toutes ces Conventions permet de protéger les droits de la personne humaine et de garantir la paix, la sécurité et la démocratie dans nos pays.

85. Le Ministre souligna que São Tomé e Príncipe entend poursuivre le processus de la réforme en cours en rappelant l'approbation du Code Pénal et de Procédure Pénale avant même de ratifier toutes les Conventions internationales..

86. En ce qui concerne le travail des enfants, de la garantie des droits civils et politiques, la garantie des droits civils et politiques, Sao Tome et Principe a déjà signé ces Conventions mais ne les a pas encore ratifié. Sao Tomé et Principe poursuit ces efforts pour que toutes ces Conventions internationales soient ratifiées cette année permettant de consolider l'état de droit démocratique dans le plein respect et protection des droits humains.

87. Sao Tome et Principe un État de droit, souverain, indépendant et engagé pour la construction d'une société libre et équitable dans la défense des droits de la personne humaine, comme est prévu dans l'article 1 de la Constitution. L'exercice politique du citoyen est libre et démocratique, Sao Tomé et Principe a donné la preuve d'une grande maturité démocratique lorsque les élections libres et transparentes avec l'appui positif des observateurs de la communauté internationale.

88. Son Excellence le Ministre de la Justice réaffirma son ferme engagement afin de mettre en application les recommandations du Conseil, pour ratifier toutes les Conventions

et d'harmoniser les législations internes de conformité des bonnes pratiques internationales dans la lutte contre toute discrimination à l'égard d'enfants, la protection des femmes, protection de droits politiques.

89. En réponse aux questions écrites soumises préalablement par les pays intervenant au sein du Conseil des Droits de l'Homme, la délégation déclara que la Constitution de São Tomé et Príncipe consacre le principe selon le lequel l'intégrité physique et morale des personnes, y compris les enfants, est inviolable. Personne ne peut être soumis à la torture ou à des traitements cruels, inhumains ou dégradants. En outre, la Constitution garantit que le processus pénale permettra d'assurer toutes des garanties de défense, étant nul toutes les preuves obtenues par la torture, la coercition, de la violation de l'intégrité physique ou morales des personnes morales.

90. A la lumière de la Constitution, les enfants ont droit au respect et à la protection de la société et de l'Etat, pour leur plein épanouissement. Dans cette perspective, une loi adoptée en 2012, Code Pénal, vient renforcer ces principes, selon l'article 152: «Le parent ou le tuteur de moins de 16 ans et tout le monde qui a à sa charge [...] est puni de 4 ans de prison, en raison de la méchanceté et l'égoïsme, maltraitance physiques, et de ne pas offrir des soins de santé.»

91. La Loi 11/2008 sur la violence domestique et familial qui vise à prévenir et punir la violence dans la famille et la Loi 12/2008 - sur le renforcement des mécanismes de protection légale des victimes de crimes, de violences domestiques et familiales qui vise établir un mécanisme de prévention et de soutien à la victime de violence conjugale et familiale (Centre de Conseil contre la Violence Domestique). Au niveau de la punition, a été créé en 2013 sections spécialisées de dans les tribunaux et Ministère Public qui traitent de questions spécifiques des mineurs.

92. Plusieurs séminaires et campagnes de sensibilisation sur la protection des droits de l'enfant ont été organisé avec le soutien de l'agence de l'ONU, l'OIT, l'UNICEF.

93. De plus, pour la première fois le Gouvernement a validé cette année une Politique Nationale de Protection de l'Enfant qui fournit des orientations pour initier des actions dans le domaine de la prévention, de la participation et de la répression des auteurs de toute forme de violence, d'abus ou d'exploitation d'enfants. Cette politique constitue un instrument privilégié pour le système de la protection de l'enfant à São Tomé et Príncipe.

94. Le ministère de la Justice et Droits de l'Homme a mené une enquête sur toutes les conventions signées et non signées par l'Etat et est prévue une réunion extraordinaire du Conseil des Ministres pour compléter ces accords et de les soumettre à l'Assemblée Nationale pour approbation et la ratification ultérieure.

95. La Convention internationale sur l'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination à l'égard des femmes a été ratifiée depuis

96. Le gouvernement de Sao Tomé et Príncipe avait l'intention d'étendre progressivement l'enseignement préscolaire à tous les enfants d'âge approprié; construire et équiper plus d'écoles et salles de classe pour la couverture des programmes scolaires de tous les niveaux de l'enseignement; fournir aux enfants ayant des besoins spéciaux une éducation de qualité, en veillant pour la formation d'enseignants spécialisés, la fourniture d'une infrastructure appropriée, contribuant ainsi à la réalisation des objectifs de l'éducation et de la formation universelle.

97. 98. Un Centre de conseil contre la violence domestique avait été créé, une institution technique avec une vocation à intervenir dans la prévention de la violence domestique et sexuelle contre les femmes, les hommes et les enfants. La formation et

sensibilisation de tous les acteurs sont un autre élément important des interventions dans ce domaine; ainsi que des campagnes d'information pour le changement de comportement.

99. Le pays dispose d'une politique nationale pour l'intégration du genre et un organisme autonome qui coordonne la mise en œuvre de cette politique.

100. Aux niveaux normatif et de la politique public, l'égalité des sexes est en fait une réalité dans le pays, bien que dans la pratique il y a encore des aspects qui affectent cette intégration, y compris la violence domestique qui affecte principalement les femmes et les enfants.

101. Pour accélérer cette intégration, le pays a adopté en 2009 une résolution parlementaire qui recommande un quota de 30 % pour la participation des femmes dans les organes de décision.

102. Parmi des effets positifs de ces mesures, nous soulignons l'accès à l'éducation et la participation croissante des femmes dans le processus politique, économique, sociale et culturel du pays.

103. Pour la réussite de ces mesures, la participation des femmes et des organisations féminines a été fondamentale.

104. La stratégie nationale pour la promotion de l'égalité de genre est un document qui énonce de politiques générales de l'intervention dans ce domaine. Les mesures visant à combattre la violence domestique sont prévus dans la législation en particulier, le Code Pénal et la Loi contre la violence domestique.

105. Le nouveau Code pénal promulgué en Juillet 2012, caractérise le crime de trafic des êtres humains et aggrave les sanctions contre le trafic des êtres humains pour la pratique de la prostitution, la pornographie des mineurs, l'enlèvement et proxénétisme.

106. Dans ce contexte, le pays a également renforcé les contrôles aux frontières et renforcer la coopération avec Interpol. De même, des formations ont été menées pour les Policiers de l'Investigation Criminelle et les Agents de l'Immigration et Frontières. Pour la première fois, le Gouvernement a élaboré et validé une Politique Nationale de Protection de l'Enfant à São Tomé et Príncipe qui fournit des orientations pour initier des actions dans le domaine de la prévention, de la participation et de la répression des auteurs de toute forme de violence, d'abus ou d'exploitation d'enfants. Cette politique constitue un instrument privilégié pour le système de la protection de l'enfant à São Tomé et Príncipe.

107. Il a également intensifié les campagnes de sensibilisation contre le trafic des mineurs à travers le pays. Pour la première fois, le Gouvernement a élaboré et validé une Politique Nationale de Protection de l'Enfant à São Tomé et Príncipe qui fournit des orientations pour initier des actions dans le domaine de la prévention, de la participation et de la répression des auteurs de toute forme de violence, d'abus ou d'exploitation d'enfants. Cette politique constitue un instrument privilégié pour le système de la protection de l'enfant à São Tomé et Príncipe.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

108. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Sao Tomé and Príncipe and enjoy the support of Sao Tomé and Príncipe:**

**Conclusions and recommendations will not be edited

- 108.1. Continue to ratify the international conventions on human rights (Angola);
- 108.2. Strive to accede to core human rights instruments relevant to the enjoyment of human rights for all persons (Nigeria);
- 108.3. Consider ratifying or acceding to the core international human rights treaties (Ukraine);
- 108.4. Complete the ratification of key international instruments that Sao Tomé and Príncipe has signed, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Canada);
- 108.5. Ratify the main human rights instruments, in particular the ICESCR; ICCPR and CAT (Costa Rica);
- 108.6. Ratify the ICCPR and its two Optional Protocols (Germany);
- 108.7. Ratify the ICCPR and its first Optional Protocol allowing individual complaints (Ghana);
- 108.8. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro);
- 108.9. Ratify ICCPR (Armenia);
- 108.10. Accelerate the process of ratification of ICCPR and ICESCR, ICERD and CAT (Turkey);
- 108.11. Ratify all the core international human rights treaties to which the country is not yet a party, including ICCPR, ICESCR, ICERD, CAT as well as ICPPED (Brazil);
- 108.12. Finalise the accession to the international instruments on the protection of human rights signed by the country, in particular ICCPR and its second Optional Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty; ICESCR; CAT and ICERD (France);
- 108.13. Ratify ICESCR (Armenia);
- 108.14. Consider ratification of the ICESCR, the ICCPR and the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Namibia);
- 108.15. Ratify ICESCR; ICCPR; and ICERD (Australia);
- 108.16. Consider ratifying the following international instruments: the ICESCR, ICCPR and ICRMW (Democratic Republic of the Congo);
- 108.17. Ratify following international legal instruments, respectively: i) the ICESCR and its Optional Protocol; ii) CAT and its Optional Protocol; and finally, the three Optional Protocols to the CRC (Portugal);
- 108.18. Ratify the OP-CEDAW (Ghana);
- 108.19. Intensify efforts to ratify the CAT (Denmark);
- 108.20. Continue its efforts to ratify the CAT (Indonesia);
- 108.21. Ratify the CAT and OP-CAT (Ghana);
- 108.22. Ratify the CAT (Montenegro);
- 108.23. Consider ratifying the OP-CAT (Rwanda);

- 108.24. **Ratify the CAT, signed in 2000 (Senegal);**
- 108.25. **Ratify CAT, ICERD and ICCPR (Spain);**
- 108.26. **Ratify and fully implement CAT and its Optional Protocol, and OP-CEDAW (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 108.27. **Ratify the six core international human rights instruments, including, CAT, ICPED, ICRMW and ICESCR (Sierra Leone);**
- 108.28. **Develop and implement the policies that promote the rights of the child and accede to the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Estonia);**
- 108.29. **Develop a comprehensive strategy and national plan of action for the implementation of the CRC (Sierra Leone);**
- 108.30. **Ratify the core international human rights treaties, signed by Sao Tome and Principe, as well as accede to OP-CRC-SC and OP-CRC-AC (Slovenia);**
- 108.31. **Ratify OP-CRC-SC, as recommended by CRC in 2013 (Togo);**
- 108.32. **Ratify OP-CRC-SC (Uruguay);**
- 108.33. **Ratify OP-CRC-AC (Uruguay);**
- 108.34. **Sign and ratify OP-CRC-SC (Australia);**
- 108.35. **Continue its efforts to ratify the ICRMW (Indonesia);**
- 108.36. **Accede to the ICPED (France);**
- 108.37. **Ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC in order to finalise the accession to this instrument signed in 2000 (France);**
- 108.38. **Ratify the Rome Statute on the Establishment of the ICC (Ghana);**
- 108.39. **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Poland);**
- 108.40. **Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);**
- 108.41. **Take measures to establish the National Child Rights Committee with the financial resources necessary to operate (Costa Rica)**
- 108.42. **Operationalize the National Child Rights Committee in order to ensure the effective promotion and protection of their rights and to enable their integral development (Democratic Republic of the Congo);**
- 108.43. **Perpetuate the measures carried out to establish a National Child Rights Committee (Equatorial Guinea);**
- 108.44. **Create a special mechanism responsible for independent child rights monitoring (Estonia);**
- 108.45. **Operationalize the National Human Rights Institution and the National Child Rights Committee (Morocco);**
- 108.46. **Allocate sufficient resources to the National Child Rights Committee in order to reinstate the functions of this Committee (Namibia);**

- 108.47. Consider establishing an independent mechanism for monitoring children's rights and providing necessary financial resources for its functioning (Poland);
- 108.48. Revitalize the National Child Rights Committee and allocate it sufficient resources for the carrying out of its mandate (Senegal);
- 108.49. Establish an independent mechanism to monitor the rights of the child, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the recommendations from the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Spain);
- 108.50. Consider the creation of a body responsible for the follow up of the implementation of international human rights treaty obligations and implementation of recommendations of United Nations bodies with competence in this area (Portugal);
- 108.51. Make efforts aimed at preparing further National reports for future UPR cycles well in advance (Ukraine).
- 108.52. Cooperate with Treaty Bodies in submitting its reports regularly (Congo);
- 108.53. Submit overdue reports to Treaty Bodies (Ethiopia);
- 108.54. Strengthen its cooperation with Treaty Bodies (Senegal);
- 108.55. Submit its long overdue reports to the relevant Treaty Bodies (Sierra Leone);
- 108.56. Present overdue reports to CEDAW (Ukraine);
- 108.57. Provide women with equal access to education and employment opportunities, and give priority attention to women-led households in the Government's poverty-alleviation and food security programs (Philippines);
- 108.58. Improve prison conditions in the country, focusing particularly on the medical care and nutrition of inmates (United States of America);
- 108.59. Provide adequate resources to enable the Counselling Centre discharge its mandate more effectively (Ghana);
- 108.60. Ensure the allocation of adequate resources to the Counselling Center against Domestic Violence, in order to enable its full functioning (Portugal);
- 108.61. Remove any rule authorizing corporal punishment and incorporate effective sanctions for such practices, as well as carry out general awareness-raising campaigns against ill-treatment of children that emphasize the peaceful resolution of violent relationships (Chile);
- 108.62. Take all necessary measures to provide street children with protection and rehabilitation (Egypt);
- 108.63. Prohibit all corporal punishment of children in all settings and repeal the right to punish children "appropriately and moderately" in the Family Law (Estonia);
- 108.64. Fully enforce the prohibition of child labour in the informal, agricultural and domestic work, including by ensuring the right to education to all children and by defining a list of hazardous work (Slovenia);
- 108.65. Develop programmes and policies of prevention, recovery, and social reintegration of child victims (Spain);

- 108.66. Ensure that laws prohibiting children from participating in hazardous occupations or activities are precise and enforced (United States of America);
- 108.67. Enact without delay legislation for the protection of children, such as prohibition of corporal punishment under any circumstances, and to swiftly work towards the ratification of the human rights instruments to which São Tomé and Príncipe has earlier committed itself, namely the ICCPR; the ICESCR, the ICERD, the CAT, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Netherlands);
- 108.68. Create conditions and human and material resources to make the justice system more effective (Angola);
- 108.69. Expedite essential reforms of judiciary (Ukraine);
- 108.70. Implement Law 7/2010 that creates a special court for children, that is able to address the particularities of these disputes (Chile);
- 108.71. Consider increasing the resources of social protection, in particular for families suffering from poverty (Egypt);
- 108.72. Intensify efforts to engage with development partners to support policies and programs that would advance the socio-economic rights of its people (Philippines);
- 108.73. Continue to strengthen its social policies and programmes in order to improve the quality of life of the people, particularly the most excluded sectors (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 108.74. Take necessary measures to reduce poverty, in particular among women and children (Algeria);
- 108.75. Continue to develop actions to improve the right to food of the whole population, including through the implementation of the National Program of Food and Nutritional Security (Cuba);
- 108.76. Improve access to drinking water and sanitation through a national action plan (Turkey);
- 108.77. Continue efforts to improve access of all the population to drinking water and sanitation (Algeria);
- 108.78. Continue its efforts to improve human rights, especially in the field of health (Djibouti);
- 108.79. Extend the scope of free basic health care to groups that are not yet covered by this benefit (Chile);
- 108.80. Establish a monitoring to carry out the teaching and learning strategy (Equatorial Guinea);
- 108.81. Continue working on improvement of quality education (Ethiopia);
- 108.82. Take appropriate measures to improve the accessibility and quality of education (Maldives);
- 108.83. Further strengthen the ongoing policies in the field of education (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 108.84. Assist pregnant teenagers and teenage mothers to continue their education and guarantee the enjoyment of their fundamental rights (Djibouti);

- 108.85. Continue to address efforts to mitigate effects of climate change, both nationally and internationally (Maldives).
109. The following enjoy the support of Sao Tomé and Príncipe which considers that they are already implemented or in the process of implementation:
- 109.1. Ratify the CRPD (Congo);
 - 109.2. Strengthen the implementation of the CRPD in the national legislation (Cuba);
 - 109.3. Establish a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Chile);
 - 109.4. Establish a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, in order to strengthen the national system of human rights alongside the recently established Ministry of Human Rights (Democratic Republic of the Congo);
 - 109.5. Consider establishing a National Human Rights Institution (Egypt);
 - 109.6. Continue the institutional framework initiated to establish a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Equatorial Guinea);
 - 109.7. Establish a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (France);
 - 109.8. Establish without delay a national human rights institution that complies with the Paris Principles (Ireland);
 - 109.9. Take urgent steps to establish an independent National Human Rights Institution free from governmental control, and in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Ghana);
 - 109.10. Establish a national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Mexico);
 - 109.11. Set up a National Human Rights Institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Mozambique);
 - 109.12. Register all children immediately after birth and ensure that birth registration legislation is in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in its 2013 Concluding Observations (Canada);
 - 109.13. Redouble national measures aimed at ensuring that every child in the country is issued with a birth certificate promptly at birth (Ghana);
 - 109.14. Continue efforts to ensure that all children are registered immediately after birth and that birth registration and the issuance of birth certificates are provided free of charge (Rwanda);
 - 109.15. Strengthen the strategies and measures for fulfilling children's rights in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan (Rwanda);
 - 109.16. Continue to provide the enabling environment for the institutions responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights and particularly by establishing a national human rights institution (Nigeria);
 - 109.17. Establish a national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Poland);

- 109.18. Accelerate efforts to establish an independent national human rights institution which is in conformity with the Paris Principles (Sierra Leone);
- 109.19. Establish a national human rights institution for the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with the Paris Principles (South Africa);
- 109.20. Create a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Timor-Leste);
- 109.21. Create an independent national institution for promotion and protection of human rights in conformity with Paris Principles (Togo);
- 109.22. Take necessary measures to create an independent mechanism to monitor the situation of human rights in conformity with the Paris Principles (Turkey);
- 109.23. Continue to strengthen the steps already made for the creation of a national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 109.24. Finalize the on-going study, create and establish a national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles (Cabo Verde);
- 109.25. Ensure that all children are registered immediately after birth, and ensure that the national legislation regulating birth registration is in line with CRC (South Africa);
- 109.26. In order to sustain the increased rate of birth registration, take necessary measures to ensure all children an immediate registration, followed by the issuance of a birth certificate (Turkey);
- 109.27. Adopt a comprehensive strategy to combat discrimination, in particular towards poor children and children with disabilities (Egypt);
- 109.28. Reform the relevant legal framework to fully ensure the application of the principles of non-discrimination and equality in the enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for persons in vulnerable situations, especially women, children and persons with disabilities (Mexico);
- 109.29. Take active measures to revise all legislation in order to fully guarantee the application of the principle of non-discrimination in domestic laws (Namibia);
- 109.30. Adopt a proactive and comprehensive strategy to eliminate discrimination against all vulnerable groups (Nigeria);
- 109.31. Enact comprehensive legislation that fully guarantees the application of the principle of non-discrimination and ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights by every member of society (South Africa);
- 109.32. Review its legislation to adopt a comprehensive strategy aimed at elimination of discrimination in all its forms and in respect of all the vulnerable groups, especially poor and disabled children (Turkey);
- 109.33. Take all necessary measures to review its domestic law and ensure that children born outside marriage are registered and enjoy their human rights on an equal condition with others (Argentina);
- 109.34. Enact and implement legislation that prohibits discrimination in employment and occupation based on disability, language, sexual orientation,

gender identity, and HIV-positive status or other communicable diseases (Australia);

109.35. Adopt legislation that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Netherlands);

109.36. Educate the public and law enforcement on women's legal rights, particularly in cases of rape and domestic violence, while undertaking to develop and implement a holistic strategy to prevent family violence, with the participation of all stakeholders (Canada);

109.37. Strengthen the effective implementation of the measures aiming at combatting discriminations and violence against women (France);

109.38. Comprehensively address harmful cultural practices, and increase the age of marriage to 18, in conformity with the provisions of the CRC (Sierra Leone);

109.39. Take urgent steps to reduce and eliminate domestic and sexual violence against women, including measures to raise awareness of women's legal rights in consultation with civil society groups, and ensuring fair and expeditious trials of domestic and sexual violence cases (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

109.40. Fight against stigmatization of children victims of exploitation and sexual abuse (Djibouti);

109.41. Continue efforts to ensure respect for the rights of the child including developing a comprehensive national strategy to prevent and combat all forms of violence against children including domestic violence, sexual trafficking and exploitation of the children (France);

109.42. Prohibit corporal punishment in law as previously recommended (Germany);

109.43. Repeal the parental right "to punish" children in family law and define what constitutes ill-treatment in line with the State's international obligations (Germany);

109.44. Develop programmes and policies for the prevention, recovery and social integration of child victims of trafficking and exploitation in accordance with the outcome documents adopted at the 1996, 2001 and 2008 World Congresses against Sexual Exploitation of Children, held in Stockholm, Yokohama and Rio de Janeiro, respectively (Ireland);

109.45. Redouble efforts to devise a comprehensive national strategy and ensure implementation of action plans for the protection of the rights of the child, particularly in the area of prevention from child labour, violence and abuse (Philippines);

109.46. Continue to actively promote the explicit abolition of corporal punishment against children in its domestic legislation, aiming at its full and complete prohibition (Portugal);

109.47. Amend the law and expressly prohibit corporal punishment (Spain);

109.48. Take specific measures to combat harmful practices in law and in practice, bearing in mind the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Spain);

- 109.49. Amend its legislation so as to include prohibition of corporal punishment (Timor-Leste);
- 109.50. Elaborate an inclusive strategy for the protection of children, particularly concerning all forms of violence, abuse and access to education without discrimination (Turkey);
- 109.51. Adopt a national coordination framework to combat all forms of violence against children, dealing with aspects of gender violence (Uruguay);
- 109.52. Amend existing legislation in order to prohibit all forms of corporal punishment of children in all settings, promoting positive and non-violent forms of discipline (Uruguay);
- 109.53. Elaborate and implement a strategy and national action plan for the protection of the rights of children, and ensure, in particular, to counter effectively the risk of child trafficking (Cabo Verde);
- 109.54. Take all necessary measures with a view to explicitly prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment of children in all settings, to combat violence and to enhance the promotion of children's rights, dignity and physical integrity (Brazil);
- 109.55. Design and implement awareness-raising campaigns on the benefits of access to health services to prevent curable diseases (Mexico);
- 109.56. Design and implement a sexual and reproductive health program for adolescents (Mexico);
- 109.57. Establish a national plan for universal access to education (Morocco);
- 109.58. Establish a compulsory education age that is equal to or higher than the minimum age for employment (United States of America);
- 109.59. Establish a national policy to address the rights of persons with disabilities (Maldives).
110. Sao Tomé and Príncipe considers that the recommendations below cannot be accepted and would thus be noted:
- 110.1. Conduct campaigns to promote awareness among the population in general of the need to treat the elderly with dignity, and simultaneously, to eradicate practices and beliefs associated with witchcraft rituals (Portugal);
- 110.2. Deepen legislative measures to eliminate the use of harmful traditional practices associated with the belief in witchcraft, that lead to delays in medical treatment provided to children and unnecessary exacerbation of treatable conditions, as expressed by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Argentina).
111. The Delegation considers that the practices mentioned in the recommendations contained in paragraphs 110.1 and 110.2 do not exist in Sao Tomé and Príncipe
112. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Sao Tomé and Principe was headed by H.E. Mr Roberto Pedro Raposo, Minister of Justice and Human Rights and composed of the following members:

- Mme Nilda Borges da Mata, Assesseur pour les Droits de l'Homme et Politique internationale;
 - Mr Gregorio Santiago, Coordinateur de la Commission Interministérielle pour les Droits de l'Homme;
 - Mr. Geisel Menezes, Membre de la Commission Interministériel pour le Droits de l'Homme;
 - Mme. Marylu Quaresma Nazaré, Membre du Conseil Supérieur du Ministère Public;
 - Mme. Loureiro Amado Vaz Miladys, Assistant de Monsieur le Ministre.
-