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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*


Dominica

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-third session from 6 to 17 May 2019. The review of Dominica was held at the 7th meeting, on 9 May 2019. The delegation of Dominica was headed by the Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, Francine Baron. At its 14th meeting, held on 14 May 2019, the Working Group adopted the report on Dominica.
2. On 15 January 2019, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Dominica: China, Nigeria and Uruguay.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Dominica:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/33/DMA/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.6/33/DMA/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/33/DMA/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Germany, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national implementation, reporting and follow-up, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Dominica through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Dominica recalled that, since the previous review, Dominica had suffered the impact of two devastating storms. Tropical Storm Erika in 2015, and Hurricane Maria – a category 5 storm – in 2017, had completely devastated the entire island. A total of 90 per cent of homes had suffered damage and thousands of people had been rendered homeless. Losses and damages had been estimated at 90 per cent of gross domestic product and 226 per cent of gross domestic product, respectively.
6. In response, the Prime Minister, Roosevelt Skerrit, had announced a new vision for Dominica: to build the world's first climate-resilient nation. The Government had also decided to continue its social protection programmes of support to the elderly and most vulnerable.
7. To follow up on recommendations received during the country's review in 2014, Cabinet approval had been obtained for the ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Dominica remained committed to moving forward with the other treaties, and expected that later that year Dominica would sign on to additional conventions and protocols. Dominica was thankful for the support it had received during that process.
8. Due to the rationalization of the use of resources following the disasters, it had not been possible to establish a human rights institution.
9. Regarding the State's reporting obligations, the report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child had been completed and approved by the Cabinet

and would be submitted shortly. Furthermore, with assistance from the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and OHCHR, 15 key stakeholders had received training on reporting to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and the draft report for submission to that Committee had been prepared. It would soon be submitted to the Cabinet for approval. In addition, a proposal to appoint a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up would be submitted to the Cabinet.

10. The Government was open to receiving assistance to facilitate a national dialogue on the death penalty.

11. While for many years major concerns at the Magistrates' Court had been a lack of space, a backlog of matters and an absence of a full complement of magistrates, prior to Hurricane Maria those concerns had largely been addressed. For instance, in 2014, the Magistrates' Court had expanded into another building that had allowed for an additional courtroom and additional facilities for staff. Furthermore, in 2016, the complement of magistrates had been increased from six to eight and all positions had been filled. Those initiatives had contributed to a marked reduction in the backlog of cases.

12. Hurricane Maria had caused major damage to all court facilities. The Magistrates' Court in Roseau had resumed sitting, mainly for criminal matters, in November 2017. Hearings in the juvenile court, and for civil, family and other matters, had resumed in March 2018. Courtrooms were still being repaired and it was expected that all courts would be functioning normally by the end of the year. The High Court of Justice had similarly experienced extensive damage to its premises and loss of case materials, which affected the ability of the Court to resume hearings.

13. Prior to Hurricane Maria, the criminal division of the supreme court had been largely up to date in dealing with criminal trials. The criminal court had been able to resume operations in January 2019. The civil division of the supreme court had a very heavy case load.

14. There had been no political harassment of opposition parties by the Government. Regarding the events of 7 February 2017, it had been determined that sufficient evidence had been gathered to bring charges against certain opposition parliamentarians and supporters for incitement to riotous conduct and wilful obstruction of the police in the execution of their duties. Due process had been followed and those who had been detained had access to legal counsel. They had been charged and released. The matters were pending before the magistrate court and had been stayed pending a decision from the High Court on a related matter.

15. In relation to the protest action in Salisbury, the reaction of the police had been very measured under the circumstances.

16. The Prime Minister was entitled, as was any other citizen, to take action to protect his reputation and, where appropriate, to seek aggravated damages when the circumstances warranted. The judgment of the Privy Council in a defamation lawsuit, referred to in the summary of stakeholders' submissions on Dominica as allegedly brought by the Prime Minister, related to a private citizen who had been defamed.

17. Regarding political rights, the electoral system in Dominica had, over the years, generally been considered to be free and fair. However, improvements for the electoral system had been recommended by the electoral office itself and by election observers. For example, the Government had decided to introduce voter identification cards.

18. In 2017, the Government had tabled amendment bills in Parliament related to electoral matters. Following a protest and complaints, the provisions relating to bribery and treating had been removed. On September 2018, a broad consultation had been held by the Government to review and discuss the bills. However, no substantive comments had been received.

19. The Government had made available all of the funding requested by the Electoral Commission for implementing an identification card system and a confirmation process that would lead to a rationalization of the voter list. The process to move forward had been

stalled. Dominica had taken action to have the voter list revised and national identification cards issued before the next election.

20. The delegation stressed that migrants remained on the voting register unless steps were taken to remove them because they had become ineligible owing to a continuous absence exceeding five years.

21. Dominica had made important progress in developing its social protection system. Between 2014 and 2018, a few interventions had been introduced or revisited, such as a social pension scheme launched in 2014 for elderly people, which had been increased in 2016, and a national health insurance pilot programme that had been launched in 2017.

22. In one response to the needs of the most affected communities hit by Tropical Storm Erika, displaced persons had been placed in rented accommodation and provided with allowances to assist them in meeting their basic needs.

23. Following Hurricane Maria, the newly developed National Resilience Development Strategy 2030, covering the period 2018 to 2030, had been approved and publicly disseminated. A public assistance programme operations manual and standard operating procedures for the Social Welfare Division had been developed. A five-year poverty reduction strategy and action plan for the period 2018 to 2023, targeting economically disadvantaged communities and specific vulnerable groups, had been designed, and preparatory works had begun on a housing and resettlement policy framework and strategy, as well as on an integrated social protection policy and strategy, together with a monitoring and evaluation framework and a costed action plan.

24. In 2018, structures and initiatives for more effective delivery of services had been reoriented to overcome pre-crisis conditions by making Dominica more resilient. Thus, the Social Welfare Division had been merged with the Ministry of Health, and the Rapid Response Social Recovery Agency had been established to provide urgent public support and relief to persons in need and for medical matters.

25. Tropical Storm Erika and Hurricane Maria had damaged the infrastructure of the education system, severely affecting 84 per cent of schools. The rebuilding process had started with efforts to build back better, which would follow guidelines for multi-disaster resilient school buildings. In rebuilding, due account was being given to physical access for children with disabilities.

26. Dominica had continued to implement activities under the OECS [Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States] Education Strategy 2012 to 2021, which included professional development for teachers. In July, when students were on vacation, over 300 teachers followed in-service training programmes. According to the available data, in 2017/18, 60 per cent of the teachers at primary level were trained, while 50 per cent of teachers at the secondary level had received the relevant training; 50 per cent of primary school principals and 73 per cent of secondary school principals had a degree in educational leadership and management. The achievement levels for the national assessments at key stages 2, 4 and 6 had shown increases despite the effects of Hurricane Maria. There had been an increasing trend in the overall pass rate for the past six years, with overall performance in 2018 being 12 points above the regional average.

27. In 2015, the Bureau of Gender Affairs, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, had participated in a joint human rights study tour on the issue of violence against women in the Caribbean, and had carried out a number of activities. In addition, through a social mobilization project, the Bureau, in collaboration with UN-Women, had implemented the "Stop the violence" campaign against gender-based violence, executed over the period 2015 to 2018. Dominica continued to empower women through a revolving loan fund specifically geared towards women. Staffing at the Bureau had been increased and the Bureau and various departments within other ministries and divisions in Dominica currently handled projects and programmes related to gender and women's issues.

28. About 21.9 per cent of parliamentarians were women. The Dominica Labour Party had fielded 21 candidates for the upcoming general election, of which 38 per cent (eight)

were women; at the time of speaking, the United Workers Party had fielded three female candidates for those elections.

29. The Sexual Offences Act had been amended in 2016 to, among other things, criminalize marital rape, ensure harsher sentences for perpetrators of sexual violence and provide legislative authority for the mandatory reporting of suspected abuse of minors.

30. While the laws in force permitted a child to be sentenced to life imprisonment, detention at the State's pleasure or corporal punishment, there had been no such sentence imposed on a child in the past 20 years. However, Dominica remained committed to updating its legislation related to the rights of children, to reflect current-day realities.

31. While corporal punishment was still provided for in the Education Act of 1997, it should be used only as a last resort. Over the past decade, the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, through the implementation of the effective school/child-friendly school initiative, had been making efforts to offer alternative approaches to discipline, including through the school-wide use of positive behavioural practices.

32. The Government had been steadily increasing its support for early childhood development, in recognition of the importance of the foundation years for growth and development. Since Hurricane Maria, early childhood development facilities had been included in schools where major rehabilitation was being undertaken.

33. Moreover, several bills had been presented to the Cabinet for review and approval, namely, the status of children bill, the children (care and adoption) bill, the juvenile justice bill, the family court bill and the maintenance of children bill. It was expected that the bills would receive approval and be taken to Parliament later in 2019.

34. In addition, discussions were ongoing about the restructuring of the Social Welfare Division, the main child protection agency. A review, currently under way, of a national action plan on child sexual abuse needed to be completed before policymakers could submit the plan for approval.

35. Dominica had made significant progress on ensuring that its policies, programmes and activities relating to children were in keeping with the letter and spirit of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and was committed to continue working towards that goal and to maintain the gains that had been realized.

36. Through technical assistance from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), initial steps had been taken to put in place a comprehensive system to collect data on child abuse, and related training had been conducted. A data bank was being developed with the support of UN-Women. The exercise would be linked to the various agencies in the compilation of statistics on domestic violence, which would include child abuse.

37. For almost two decades, Dominica had provided a separate Juvenile Court presided over by child-friendly magistrates.

38. Children with disabilities were educated mainly in an inclusive setting. However, the Government provided support to private institutions that catered specifically to children with disabilities. An office had been established to coordinate work in special education, and children with disabilities were involved in sports and were regular participants at the Special Olympic World Games.

39. Dominica had enacted legislation aimed at preventing, combating and punishing trafficking. A number of offences relating to trafficking in persons and related matters, including forced labour, were provided for in the Transnational Organized Crime (Prevention and Control) Act of 2013. Offences relating to the smuggling of migrants were also provided for in that Act; offences relating to trafficking in persons were extraditable offences for the purposes of the Extradition Act.

40. Concerning discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, Dominica acknowledged that there had not been an amendment to the laws that affected members of that community. Over the past five years no cases of violence or death threats targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons had been reported

to the police. Access to health care was not denied to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

41. In concluding, the delegation reiterated that Dominica remained fully committed to the universal periodic review process and fulfilling its obligations under treaties to which Dominica was a party. As a small island developing State, Dominica was challenged by a lack of adequate financial and technical resources, which had been further exacerbated by the economic devastation caused by the recent storms.

42. Dominica expressed its gratitude to the troika, the universal periodic review secretariat and the Working Group for the support received during the process and reaffirmed its commitment to the Human Rights Council.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

43. During the interactive dialogue, 52 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

44. Uruguay acknowledged efforts made by Dominica to ratify international human rights treaties and commended the reform of the Sexual Offences Act, which classified spousal rape as a crime and strengthened penalties against perpetrators of acts of sexual violence.

45. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted with satisfaction the project on housing initiated after Hurricane Maria and commended Dominica on its universal access to education, which was free of cost from kindergarten to secondary school, and noted that school transportation service was offered in rural areas. It welcomed the support that had been offered to vulnerable groups, such as to elderly persons and persons with disabilities, including through the programme “Yes we care”.

46. Algeria welcomed the efforts that Dominica had made towards the protection of children, including the measures adopted in May 2018, despite the financial and economic constraints it had faced following the 2015 and 2017 natural disasters.

47. Argentina congratulated Dominica for the establishment of the “Yes we care” programme, through which free assistance and home care was provided to the elderly.

48. Australia commended Dominica on improvements to its approach to development and human rights, and on its commitment to democracy.

49. Azerbaijan noted that natural disasters had created major challenges for Dominica. It welcomed measures taken by Dominica for the protection of human rights, in particular the ongoing efforts to adopt national action plans to that end. It also took positive note of the human rights training activities conducted in 2015 for government officials in Dominica.

50. The Bahamas noted the challenges faced by Dominica, in particular with regard to the catastrophic natural disasters suffered during the past five years, which had severely affected the State’s financial and human resources. It commended Dominica for strengthening systems for the prevention of and response to gender-based violence through the amendment of the Sexual Offences Act and collaboration between the Bureau of Gender Affairs and UN-Women. It also noted positively measures to secure the human rights of the indigenous Kalinago people through the creation of the Ministry of Kalinago Affairs, and commended Dominica on the concrete steps taken to create the world’s first climate-resilient country.

51. Barbados commended the national report of Dominica. It appreciated the State’s commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular in relation to the rights of women and girls. It welcomed efforts aimed at combating gender-based violence, strengthening the social protection network and seeking to safeguard the overall security of citizens by promoting resilience to climate change.

52. The Plurinational State of Bolivia expressed appreciation for the adoption of the Climate Resilience Act of 2018, which was aimed at helping overcome climate-related

disasters in a rapid manner. It also welcomed efforts made to ensure the protection and preservation of the rights of all citizens of Dominica.

53. Brazil praised Dominica for its decision to build a climate-resilient country. It commended the de facto moratorium on the death penalty, the criminalization of marital rape and the efforts made to provide home care for elderly and critically ill patients. Brazil applauded the initiatives taken by Dominica towards becoming a party to key international human rights instruments. It encouraged the country to continue to be engaged in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable persons in its society and to adopt legislation and national policies on the rights of persons with disabilities.

54. Canada commended Dominica for the progress achieved since the previous review regarding the rights of persons with disabilities. It remained concerned at the high rates of sexual violence against women and children, including within their families, as well as by the persistence of discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Canada welcomed the efforts of Dominica to address human rights concerns as it faced the ongoing challenges of post-hurricane reconstruction, and encouraged the country to continue striving towards full implementation of the universal periodic review recommendations.

55. Chile congratulated Dominica for its national action plan for the protection of children, adopted in 2018, and for efforts made to update its national gender policy and action plan. Chile expressed concern about the discrimination affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and about the law that punished consensual sexual relations between persons of the same sex. Recognizing the challenges resulting from climate change, Chile welcomed the adoption of the Climate Resilience Act.

56. China welcomed the efforts made by Dominica in the promotion and protection of human rights and action taken in the areas of natural disaster relief, social development, poverty reduction and the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities. It commended Dominica for improving the realization of the rights to housing and education for its people. China acknowledged the challenges faced by Dominica regarding natural disasters, and called on the international community to assist the country in that regard.

57. Costa Rica recognized that climate change posed multiple challenges for Dominica. In that regard, it considered positive the adoption of the Climate Resilience Act, which was aimed at ensuring rapid and efficient recuperation from climate-related and natural disasters.

58. Cuba recognized the efforts that Dominica had made to implement the recommendations supported during the second universal periodic review cycle, despite the fact that Dominica was a small island developing State that had faced the negative effects caused by natural disasters. Cuba acknowledged several legislative measures in different human rights areas, as well as actions aimed at combating poverty and extending the coverage and quality of health and education services.

59. Denmark welcomed the delegation of Dominica and thanked the members for the presentation of the report. Denmark noted that the Convention against Torture Initiative stood ready to assist Dominica in advancing in the areas covered by the Initiative. It made recommendations.

60. The Dominican Republic welcomed the delegation of Dominica and thanked the members for the presentation of the report. It congratulated Dominica for its efforts aimed at safeguarding the life of all its citizens and reducing the negative consequences of natural disasters.

61. Fiji noted that Dominica was a small island developing State and that it was one of the States most vulnerable to climate change. It acknowledged the multiple challenges posed by climate change, including intense hurricanes affecting agriculture productivity, infrastructure, residential development and resource management. Fiji commended Dominica for its aspirations and its goal to be the world's first climate-resilient nation, and the efforts it had made to that end through the implementation of the Climate Resilience Act. It further commended the resilience-building process implemented pursuant to the Act, which targeted key industries, including the agriculture, transport, housing and resettlement sectors.

62. France welcomed the members of the delegation of Dominica and thanked them for their presentation. While noting that the human rights situation in Dominica was satisfactory, France stressed that progress still needed to be made in order to advance and consolidate human rights protection in several areas.

63. Georgia expressed appreciation for the efforts made by Dominica to implement the recommendations from the previous universal periodic review cycle. It noted that, in 2015 and 2017, natural disasters had severely affected the country's economy, infrastructure, natural resources and human welfare. Georgia commended Dominica for the adoption of the National Child Protection Action Plan, and noted with appreciation the adoption of numerous child welfare bills, including the model children (care and adoption) bill and the child justice bill.

64. Germany commended the progress made by Dominica in women's rights and the protection of children against abuse through the amendment of the Sexual Offences Act in 2016. It made recommendations.

65. Ghana congratulated Dominica for rising from the ashes of Tropical Storm Erica and Hurricane Maria, and for its work aimed at building a resilient society committed to ensuring the full enjoyment of human rights by its people. It welcomed the progress made by Dominica in gender parity, the combating of domestic and sexual violence, poverty alleviation and education. Ghana noted that Dominica had accepted recommendations to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment during the second review cycle, and welcomed that the commitment had been reaffirmed in April during a visit to the country by a high-level delegation from the Convention against Torture Initiative.

66. Guyana recognized the devastation faced by Dominica after Tropical Storm Erica and Hurricane Maria, and congratulated Dominica for its resilience and for the efforts made to recover and rebuild the country. It took note of the Prime Minister's declared intention to make Dominica the first climate-resilient country. Guyana commended Dominica for beginning the ratification process for several human rights treaties, and for its efforts in addressing gender-based violence.

67. Haiti took note of efforts made by Dominica to improve living conditions in the country, especially for those affected by Tropical Storm Erica and the Hurricane Maria. Haiti congratulated Dominica for its National Resilience Development Strategy 2030, a document that was key in efforts to make Dominica the first climate-resilient country.

68. Honduras congratulated Dominica for the results achieved in the implementation of the previous recommendations received, especially those related to combating poverty. It also congratulated Dominica for the adoption of the Climate Resilience Act.

69. Iceland recognized the devastating effects of the natural disasters in Dominica and the significant strides in social inclusion and gender equality that Dominica had made prior to Hurricane Maria. Iceland welcomed steps taken by Dominica to prosecute officials who had committed abuses. However, it deeply regretted intolerance regarding sexual orientation and gender identity in the country.

70. Indonesia expressed appreciation for the Government's commitment to uphold existing international human rights mechanisms, and for the Cabinet's imminent approval of the ratification of the Convention against Torture. Indonesia also welcomed the State's continued efforts to review its National Resilience Development Strategy 2030 in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

71. Iraq thanked Dominica for its presentation of the national report and made recommendations.

72. Ireland recognized that Dominica was particularly vulnerable to climate-related disasters and related challenges. It welcomed the State's commitment to becoming a climate-resilient nation, including through the adoption of the Climate Resilience Act and the establishment of a climate-resilience executive agency. Ireland also commended measures taken by Dominica to combat gender-based violence, such as the amendment of the Sexual Offences Act, and urged Dominica to continue progress in that area.

73. The delegation of Dominica stressed that, in addition to seeking to reduce the incidence of violence against women and children, the Government wished to reduce violence overall, with a view to eliminating all forms of violence against persons.

74. The Government was very committed to the provision of health care for all citizens. Health care was free for all citizens 16 years of age and under or 60 years of age and above. New medical centres and hospitals were being built, and funds were allocated for training doctors and nurses.

75. After enacting the Protection against Domestic Violence Act in 2001, the Government had been examining the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States domestic violence act with a view to aligning such legislation across the region. A comparison of the two instruments had revealed few divergences; in some cases, the Protection against Domestic Violence Act of Dominica covered areas not captured by the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States instrument.

76. Legislation in Dominica provided for equal pay for equal work, with no distinction made between men and women.

77. Italy acknowledged the efforts made by Dominica to tackle gender-based violence, including through the amendment of the Sexual Offences Act, the implementation, in cooperation with United Nations agencies, of projects aimed at raising awareness on the issue, and the provision of assistance to affected persons. Italy appreciated the efforts made by Dominica in the fields of education and health, including the provision of free access with the aim of including those who were the most vulnerable. Italy also noted the implementation of measures aimed at reducing poverty among, and increasing the social protection of, older persons and persons with disabilities.

78. Kyrgyzstan recognized the significant challenges faced by the Government and noted efforts made by Dominica to promote and protect human rights in the country, namely by combating poverty and advancing women's empowerment, gender equality and the rights of children to education and to health care.

79. The Lao People's Democratic Republic commended efforts by Dominica to fulfil its commitments and to ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of all Dominicans. It welcomed in particular the national gender policy, aimed at promoting and protecting women's and children's rights on an equal basis.

80. Maldives commended Dominica for all the efforts and measures taken to protect the rights of its people. In particular, it took positive note of the Climate Resilience Act, passed by Parliament in 2018. Maldives was also encouraged by the establishment of the Climate Resilience Execution Agency of Dominica, aimed at promoting the swift and cost-effective recovery of Dominica from climate-related disasters.

81. Mexico recognized the progress made with respect to the previous cycle, including the adoption of the National Child Protection Action Plan, in May 2018, the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, which criminalized marital rape, and the national programmes for the alleviation of poverty carried out within the framework of the Government's Growth and Social Protection Strategy (2014–2018).

82. Montenegro noted the efforts made by Dominica in promoting and protecting human rights, and highlighted the difficulties caused by multiple natural disasters, which had severely affected the economy, human welfare and infrastructure in Dominica. Montenegro took note of the concerns of the United Nations subregional team for Barbados and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States on the persistence of child abuse and on the lack of legislation and national policy on the rights of persons with disabilities. Montenegro considered the abolition of the death penalty to be a priority. It encouraged the Government to avail itself of the assistance offered by OHCHR to establish a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up.

83. Myanmar commended the country's efforts to uphold the fundamental rights of its citizens in line with international standards, despite the challenges it faced. Myanmar was encouraged by the commitment of, and measures adopted by, the Government to prevent

and respond to gender-based violence and other forms of violence in society. It observed that, notwithstanding those developments, there was still room for improvement.

84. The Netherlands recognized the challenges faced by Dominica in addressing the damage caused by the natural disasters that had affected the island in recent years, and commended the country for taking adequate action to address the immediate needs of its people in the aftermath. It welcomed the efforts made by the Government to improve the realization of women's rights, in particular the legal provisions on marital rape and stricter penalties for sexual offences. However, the Netherlands was concerned about the persistence of discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and about the high number of child abuse cases.

85. Panama commended the progress made on issues related to children, adolescents and gender. In particular, it welcomed the process for the ratification of several universal human rights instruments, the criminalization of marital rape and the adoption of measures aimed at guaranteeing the empowerment of women. Panama noted that Dominica was highly vulnerable to natural disasters and the effects of climate change, and that those challenges could not be faced by national authorities alone. It encouraged Dominica to request technical assistance in that area.

86. Peru acknowledged the efforts made by Dominica to comply with its international commitments regarding the promotion and protection of human rights, despite having suffered enormous damage as a result of the hurricanes of 2015 and 2017. Peru made recommendations.

87. The Philippines noted the progress made by Dominica in the area of human rights since its previous review, particularly in strengthening the country's resilience with regard to the adverse impacts of climate change and in efforts to increase women's representation in public office. The Philippines welcomed the development of a draft national gender policy for the period 2018 to 2028, aimed at achieving an integrated approach to addressing gender-based violence, including domestic violence and sexual violence.

88. Portugal strongly welcomed the fact that, since the previous review, the Government of Dominica had been working towards enacting legislation to protect children, in the areas of child care and protection, adoption and juvenile justice, among others. Portugal made recommendations.

89. Senegal noted with satisfaction the action taken by Dominica in the field of women's and children's rights through the draft national gender policy, the amendment of the Sexual Offences Act, and the adoption, in 2018, of the National Child Protection Action Plan. Senegal also welcomed the development of national programmes to alleviate poverty and to better take into account the needs of older persons, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

90. Serbia acknowledged that Dominica had shown a clear determination to fortify existing legislative and administrative frameworks and to foster deeper collaboration and cooperation with human rights agencies, organizations and advocacy groups, in its quest to protect all persons within its jurisdiction. It was particularly commendable that the country had continued to promote human rights standards, despite confronting constant, new and emerging challenges, such as being severely ravaged by natural disasters, specifically tropical storms.

91. Seychelles commended the efforts made by Dominica to guarantee fundamental human rights to all, even while dealing with the repercussions of devastating natural disasters and adverse climate conditions in recent years. It particularly noted the enactment of the Climate Resilience Act and the establishment of the Climate Resilience Execution Agency.

92. Slovenia welcomed the adoption of the Climate Resilience Act and the establishment of the Climate Resilience Execution Agency. It urged Dominica to adopt a human rights-based approach in its climate and environmental policies. Moreover, it sought information on whether the Dominican authorities were taking steps to sign and ratify the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement).

93. Spain commended Dominica on its co-sponsorship and vote in favour of General Assembly resolution 73/175, the Assembly's seventh on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty. Spain congratulated the country on the adoption of an amended Sexual Offences Act introducing stiffer sentences for offences classified as marital rape, but noted that gender-based violence continued to pose a real challenge. It noted with concern the legal and social discrimination to which the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community in Dominica was subjected.

94. Togo hailed progress made in combating violence against women, promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples, enhancing social protection and fighting poverty. It noted efforts made by the country to cope with a considerable influx of migrants, and welcomed the adoption of measures ensuring that migrants could enjoy their rights and be integrated into all spheres of Dominican society.

95. Trinidad and Tobago noted that the effects of Tropical Storm Erika and Hurricane Maria, which had resulted in extensive damage and loss, remained painful challenges with respect to pursuing and maintaining progress made towards development. It acknowledged the country's commitment to protect and promote human rights, and took note of steps under way to ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. It further acknowledged the establishment of the Kalinago Barana Autê model village and the role it would play in the preservation of culture and heritage. The efforts to strengthen systems for the prevention of and response to gender-based violence, the provision of transportation to and from school for students in rural areas and the operationalization of the Small Business Fund were all commendable.

96. Turkey welcomed the progress Dominica had made in the field of human rights, specifically efforts to promote gender equality and combat child abuse. It commended Dominica on placing disadvantaged groups, such as children and adolescents, women and disabled persons, within the scope of the national plan. It was aware of significant challenges with regard to acts of violence, discrimination and other abuses, and welcomed the Government's efforts to tackle those human rights issues.

97. Ukraine positively noted the measures taken by the Government to implement recommendations from the previous review cycle, especially in light of the devastating consequences of Tropical Storm Erika and Hurricane Maria. Ukraine made recommendations.

98. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland thanked Dominica for its continued commitment to the universal periodic review process despite the challenges faced following the devastating effects of natural disasters, most recently in the wake of Hurricane Maria. It welcomed the country's commitment to ensuring freedom of the media, but noted that defamation remained a criminal offence. It encouraged Dominica to decriminalize defamation and place it under civil law, in accordance with international standards. It also noted the significant strides made in the protection of women and children, and encouraged Dominica to endorse the call to action to end forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking. Finally, it welcomed the country's vote of support for the General Assembly resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, and encouraged Dominica to establish a formal moratorium on executions with a view to eventually abolishing the death penalty.

99. The United States of America commended the Government of Dominica for ensuring adequate prison conditions, protecting the independence of the press and guaranteeing the independence and impartiality of the judiciary.

100. The delegation of Dominica stressed that there was commitment at the highest level to fully implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Prime Minister had mandated the ministry responsible for health to work with the Dominica Association of Persons with Disabilities to address all issues and obligations under the Convention. The Government had employed a consultant to help accelerate efforts towards the implementation of the relevant articles of the Convention, in particular articles 9, 11, 21 and 25 to 28. A communications strategy to raise awareness of the Convention was being developed. The terms of reference had been drawn up for a disability committee to work on implementation of the Convention, and an action plan had been developed to include,

among other things, institutional arrangements, access to the built environment, public transport, rehabilitation and employment. Noticeable progress had been made with regard to areas such as access to employment in the public service; more recently, persons with disabilities had been provided with opportunities through the National Employment Programme.

101. Regarding matters relating to children and women, particularly in a courtroom setting, the Cabinet had approved the establishment of a family court, which had been envisioned as part of the juvenile justice reform project. The need for such a specialized court had been identified, to afford the requisite privacy and special attention for family matters, such as custody, at-risk children, maintenance and other issues. As the approval to establish the family court had been given shortly before Hurricane Maria, the formation of the court had been set back, but efforts were ongoing.

102. In relation to juvenile justice, detained juveniles were currently kept in the same area as adult prisoners, within the State prison system. The ministry responsible for justice was working to have a separate facility constructed for juveniles so that they would be separated from the adult prison population; more focused attention would be given to them, in particular for their rehabilitation.

103. The delegation of Dominica stressed that, regarding the issue of discrimination against indigenous peoples, and in relation to the Kalinago people, the Government had in recent years been pursuing programmes designed to uplift the status of the Kalinago people. Support had been provided to children from the Kalinago territory to facilitate their access to schooling and health care. In addition, a number of houses and a new school had been built to benefit the Kalinago community. Moreover, as a result of support for access to tertiary education, members of the Kalinago people were becoming lawyers and doctors and participating more fully in various aspects of society.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

104.1 **Complete the ongoing national procedures to ratify core human rights conventions (Bahamas); Accelerate the process of signing and ratifying the core international instruments for the protection and promotion of human rights (Georgia); Speed up the process of ratification or accession to international human rights instruments (Senegal);**

104.2 **Make further efforts to accede to the main international United Nations human rights instruments (Iraq);**

104.3 **Ratify all the core international human rights instruments to which it is not a party yet (Honduras);**

104.4 **Adhere to or ratify the fundamental international human rights treaties (Costa Rica);**

104.5 **Seek the technical and other assistance necessary to honour its national and international human rights commitments, especially with the ratification of treaties and conventions (Barbados);**

104.6 **Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) of the International Labour Organization (Uruguay);**

104.7 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty to formalize its de facto moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolition (Australia);**

- 104.8 **Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Germany); Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and abolish the death penalty in domestic law (Mexico);**
- 104.9 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Togo) (Ukraine);**
- 104.10 **Intensify efforts to accede to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as other conventions, notably the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Ghana);**
- 104.11 **Intensify efforts to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Fiji); Expedite the process of ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Indonesia);**
- 104.12 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark) (France) (Ukraine);**
- 104.13 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol (Spain);**
- 104.14 **Ratify, as previously recommended, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol (Portugal);**
- 104.15 **Consider ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile) (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 104.16 **Ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (France) (Ukraine);**
- 104.17 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);**
- 104.18 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 104.19 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Denmark);**
- 104.20 **Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Montenegro) (Portugal);**
- 104.21 **Ratify and implement the International Labour Organization's 2014 Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 104.22 **Complete and submit pending reports to the treaty bodies, in particular those addressed to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Costa Rica);**
- 104.23 **Intensify cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in order to build capacity and implement their international obligations (Iraq);**
- 104.24 **Take advantage of the technical assistance offered by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in order to improve its reporting records (Costa Rica);**
- 104.25 **Continue engaging international and regional partners, including OHCHR, to address issues regarding capacity and resources required to better fulfil its international treaty obligations (Philippines);**

- 104.26 **Submit its initial and periodic reports to the treaty bodies of the human rights instruments to which it is a party (Peru);**
- 104.27 **Establish a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up (Costa Rica); Establish a national mechanism for implementing, reporting and follow-up (Bahamas);**
- 104.28 **Adopt an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 104.29 **Review existing national legislation to ensure conformity with international human rights treaties to which it is a party (Philippines);**
- 104.30 **Take continuing steps to establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Australia); Continue its efforts in order to establish an independent national human rights institution in full accordance with the Paris Principles (Georgia);**
- 104.31 **Intensify national efforts to establish a national human rights institution (Indonesia); Intensify efforts to establish a national institution for the promotion and protection of human rights (Portugal);**
- 104.32 **Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Iraq); Establish a national human rights institution (Montenegro);/ Establish a national institution for the promotion and protection of human rights, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Senegal); Establish a national human rights institution complying with the Paris Principles (Ukraine);**
- 104.33 **Make efforts towards the establishment of the national human rights institutions and continue efforts towards the ratification of the international human rights treaties (Guyana);**
- 104.34 **Consider adopting legislation to strengthen the principle of non-discrimination, and which affords particular protection to persons belonging to vulnerable groups (Peru);**
- 104.35 **Strengthen specific legislation to combat discrimination based on disabilities, sexual orientation, gender identity or social status (Honduras);**
- 104.36 **Maintain efforts to promote and protect human rights in accordance with their international obligations, particularly in the implementation of measures to protect the most vulnerable segments of society (Turkey);**
- 104.37 **Strengthen policies aimed at combating discrimination affecting, in particular, Kalinago children in schools outside the territory reserved for persons belonging to this minority (France);**
- 104.38 **Put in place additional programmes for the rights of older persons, persons with disabilities and the Kalinago population (Panama);**
- 104.39 **Take the necessary measures to repeal provisions of its national law that are discriminatory and that penalize relations between persons of the same sex (Argentina);**
- 104.40 **Take measures to reduce the societal stigma faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, including repealing provisions in national law that criminalize same-sex relations, including in the Sexual Offences Act (Australia);**
- 104.41 **Advance protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons by prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation, or gender identity (Canada);**
- 104.42 **Decriminalize homosexual relations and fight discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (France);**

- 104.43 **Repeal all legislation and provisions that criminalize same-sex relations, including article 16 of the Sexual Offences Act, and implement measures to effectively prevent discrimination and social stigmatization of individuals based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Germany);**
- 104.44 **Decriminalize same-sex acts (Iceland);**
- 104.45 **Take all measures to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals, investigate all acts of violence motivated by the sexual orientation or gender identity of the victim, and bring the perpetrators to justice (Iceland);**
- 104.46 **Amend anti-discrimination laws to include discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics (Iceland);**
- 104.47 **Adopt concrete measures to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, including by repealing article 16 of the Sexual Offences Act 1998, to decriminalize consensual same-sex relations (Ireland);**
- 104.48 **Reinforce the anti-discriminatory legal framework in order to provide for a strengthened protection of the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community (Italy);**
- 104.49 **Promote a legal framework that protects persons from all forms of violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and review the Sexual Offences Act 1998, which criminalizes consensual same-sex relations between adults (Mexico);**
- 104.50 **Take measures to address discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Myanmar);**
- 104.51 **Protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons against violence and discrimination, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 10, by amending sections 14 and 16 of the Sexual Offences Act to decriminalize consensual same-sex conduct (Netherlands);**
- 104.52 **Amend the Sexual Offences Act to decriminalize consensual same-sex sexual activity between adults and adopt measures to protect defenders of the rights of this community (Spain);**
- 104.53 **Repeal all legal provisions which discriminate against persons on the grounds of their sexual orientation and gender identity, including relevant language in the Sexual Offences Act (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 104.54 **End criminalization of consensual same-sex sexual activity between adults (United States of America);**
- 104.55 **Continue its efforts for resilience to climate change (Algeria);**
- 104.56 **Adopt and implement effective policies to reduce poverty and unemployment, in particular through implementation of the sustainable development programme up to 2030 (Algeria);**
- 104.57 **Continue the construction of resilient housing facilities for its citizens who are affected by natural disasters (Azerbaijan);**
- 104.58 **Continue to build a “Climate Resilient Nation” that has at the centre the mitigation of climate change for the enjoyment of human rights (Barbados);**
- 104.59 **Continue developing public policies to address climate change and reduce risks related to natural disasters, adopting a human rights-based approach (Chile);**
- 104.60 **Continue designing actions to ensure the welfare of its population, in particular children, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities, in its plans to address natural disasters and emergency situations (Cuba);**

- 104.61 **Ensure that a human rights-based approach is incorporated into the implementation of the Climate Resilience Act of 2018 (Fiji);**
- 104.62 **Adopt a human rights-based approach in the implementation of the Climate Resilience Act 2018 and the action plan of the Climate Resilience Execution Agency of Dominica (Panama);**
- 104.63 **Take into account the vulnerabilities, needs and views of women, children, youth, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and other marginalized groups in the implementation of the resilience and recovery plan of the Climate Resilience Execution Agency (Fiji);**
- 104.64 **Further enhance the participation of vulnerable groups and communities in the development and implementation of measures on climate resilience and disaster risk management (Philippines);**
- 104.65 **Continue to cooperate closely with the United Nations bodies and other relevant international organizations to remedy all of the effects of Hurricane Maria, which occurred in September 2017, for the benefit of all citizens, especially children and displaced persons (Serbia);**
- 104.66 **Ensure that a human rights lens is adopted in the implementation of the Climate Resilience Act and the plans of action of the Climate Resilience Execution Agency of Dominica (Seychelles);**
- 104.67 **Continue efforts to address the effects of climate change, with the mobilization of further assistance from the international community (Cuba);**
- 104.68 **Continue disaster relief and rehabilitation and further promote sustainable economic and social development (China);**
- 104.69 **Continue its efforts to reduce poverty and inequality (Cuba);**
- 104.70 **Consider repealing provisions of its national law on the death penalty (Argentina);**
- 104.71 **Adopt legislation to abolish the death penalty (Canada);**
- 104.72 **Abolish the death penalty and, in the immediate future, introduce a moratorium (France);**
- 104.73 **Abolish the death penalty (Iceland);**
- 104.74 **Consider adopting a de jure moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to totally abolishing it (Italy);**
- 104.75 **Follow the de facto moratorium on the death penalty by its abolition (Portugal);**
- 104.76 **Adopt the necessary legislative measures for the complete abolition of the death penalty in the country (Spain);**
- 104.77 **Establish a formal moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Ukraine);**
- 104.78 **Address shortages of judicial, prosecutorial and police staffing, which contribute to lengthy pretrial detentions and severe backlogs in the judicial system (United States of America);**
- 104.79 **End criminalization of libel, which leads to selective self-censorship due to public and private threat of lawsuits (United States of America);**
- 104.80 **Decriminalize defamation and place it under the civil code, in accordance with international standards, particularly regarding freedom of opinion and expression (Ireland);**
- 104.81 **Criminalize child pornography and trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation (Panama);**

- 104.82 Continue strengthening its successful social programmes in the fight against poverty, exclusion and social inequality, with an emphasis on employment, education, health and food, particularly in the most vulnerable areas (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 104.83 Continue to strengthen the social security system and meet the living needs of vulnerable groups, including old people and persons with disabilities (China);
- 104.84 Continue implementation of a road map to be devised within the national action plan with the aim of eliminating violence against children, child labour and child pregnancy, along with reducing poverty and social and territorial inequality and discrimination (Turkey);
- 104.85 Strengthen the positive public assistance programmes which provide necessary public support to people in need (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 104.86 Make continued efforts to ensure adequate health care is accessible to all segments of Dominican society (Guyana);
- 104.87 Continue to improve its national health care system and ensure access to quality health care for all (Kyrgyzstan);
- 104.88 Promote increased access to the health insurance scheme for mothers and infants, ensuring more affordable prenatal and postnatal care for all Dominican mothers through increased awareness (Maldives);
- 104.89 Reinforce its positive actions to improve access to and quality services of health and education in the country for a better standard of living of its population (Cuba);
- 104.90 Guarantee by law the right to education of children with special needs and apply an inclusive approach to incorporate them in the general education system (Costa Rica);
- 104.91 Continue to deliver quality education for all children (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 104.92 Promote human rights awareness-raising activities among citizens (Myanmar);
- 104.93 Take further steps to protect the rights of women and children, especially by strengthening support services (Australia);
- 104.94 Promote the protection of women and girls against gender-based violence (Barbados);
- 104.95 Implement a public advocacy campaign to combat sexual violence against women and children, including appropriate training for law enforcement, educators, and medical personnel, as well as effective support and accountability for victims (Canada);
- 104.96 Prioritize conducting a study on the prevalence of gender violence (Costa Rica);
- 104.97 Continue efforts aimed at sensitizing the public on gender issues and strengthening systems for prevention of and response to gender-based violence (Georgia);
- 104.98 Implement measures to eliminate violence and discrimination against women, including the amended domestic violence act, strengthen the functioning of the Bureau of Gender Affairs and finalize and implement the national policy and action plan for gender equality (Germany);
- 104.99 Urgently adopt the domestic violence act (Iceland);
- 104.100 Continue fighting against sexual violence, including domestic violence (Italy);

- 104.101 Continue its efforts in eliminating violence against women and girls to provide a safe living environment for them (Kyrgyzstan);
- 104.102 Continue to work towards empowerment of women and their integration in the society (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 104.103 Include active measures in the national gender policy project 2018–2028, in order to combat sexism and hyper-masculinity, as follow-up to all the accepted universal periodic review recommendations on gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment (Haiti);
- 104.104 Continue consolidating the achievements made in the promotion of women's rights, through the national policy and the plan of action on gender equality (Dominican Republic);
- 104.105 Strengthen actions to combat violence against women and children (France);
- 104.106 Continue its training and capacity-building programmes for duty bearers and stakeholders on addressing violence against women and children (Philippines);
- 104.107 Adopt a law on protection against domestic violence (Senegal);
- 104.108 Continue fighting against gender-based violence with measures based on prevention and awareness-raising in society (Spain);
- 104.109 Adopt legislative and regulatory measures to strengthen efforts to combat domestic violence, further promote the rights of persons with disabilities and establish a national institution for the coordination of questions relating to persons with disabilities (Togo);
- 104.110 Fully implement the draft national gender policy 2018–2028 (Bahamas);
- 104.111 Continue with the project to reform the national gender policy and action plan, which aims to promote gender equality in the field of national development (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 104.112 Strengthen measures to eliminate the wage gap between men and women in all sectors and to increase the representation of women in both the public and the private sectors (Honduras);
- 104.113 Continue efforts to ensure gender equality across all sectors (Maldives);
- 104.114 Legalize the voluntary termination of pregnancy in cases of rape, incest and fetal malformation and when the mother's health is at risk (Mexico);
- 104.115 Continue its efforts for gender equality (Myanmar);
- 104.116 Swiftly finalize the update of Dominica's national policy and action plan for gender equality (Portugal);
- 104.117 Strengthen the Bureau of Gender Affairs (Senegal);
- 104.118 Continue taking measures in order to increase the political and social participation of women (Azerbaijan);
- 104.119 Combat all forms of abuse against boys, girls and adolescents, eliminating from its domestic legislation the provisions permitting corporal punishment by parents, teachers or legal guardians (Uruguay);
- 104.120 Take further measures to prevent and combat domestic violence and to ensure the education of children in schools (Algeria);
- 104.121 Strengthen measures to eliminate corporal punishment of boys, girls and adolescents from its national law (Argentina);

- 104.122 **Promulgate legislative changes to address sexual offences against children (Bahamas);**
- 104.123 **Adopt additional measures and allocate the necessary resources in order to adequately enforce its National Action Plan on Child Sexual Abuse and update the mandatory reporting protocol for child abuse (Brazil);**
- 104.124 **Abolish corporal punishment against children in the justice system (Brazil);**
- 104.125 **Repeal legal provisions authorizing corporal punishment of children both at school and in the home (Chile);**
- 104.126 **Outlaw all sentences of corporal punishment for children as well as life imprisonment for children under the age of 14. Ensure full compliance with international standards and take adequate measures to stop the persisting child abuse, in particular sexual abuse (Germany);**
- 104.127 **Prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings and take all measures to enforce it in practice (Iceland);**
- 104.128 **Make further efforts to ensure the rights of the children are respected, including by taking measures against the use of corporal punishment (Italy);**
- 104.129 **Invest in the protection of children from abuse by facilitating the process of reporting child abuse to the authorities and adopting a more victim-centred approach, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Netherlands);**
- 104.130 **Strengthen the legislative child protection regime by speedily enacting the care and adoption bill and the child justice bill while giving primary consideration to the best interests of the child (Seychelles);**
- 104.131 **Prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, as recommended previously (Slovenia);**
- 104.132 **Take appropriate steps to prohibit and sanction corporal punishment in early childhood educational institutions (Togo);**
- 104.133 **Continue promoting progress in its legislative and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of the rights of the Kalinago indigenous peoples (Dominican Republic);**
- 104.134 **Strengthen the work carried out by the Ministry of Kalinago Affairs to improve the socioeconomic and cultural conditions of the Kalinago population (Peru);**
- 104.135 **Take further steps to advance the rights of people with disabilities through the implementation of social programmes (Canada);**
- 104.136 **Take measures to ensure that accessibility for persons with disabilities is taken into account in the reconstruction or renovation of buildings and public and private infrastructure (Haiti);**
- 104.137 **Develop a more comprehensive policy or legislation in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including through close collaboration with other States parties in the developing world (Indonesia);**
- 104.138 **Carry out legislative reforms that guarantee the right to education of children with disabilities, guaranteeing an inclusive education that comprises safe physical access to educational facilities (Mexico);**
- 104.139 **Approve domestic legislation on asylum, creating a national procedure for the determination of refugee status (Costa Rica);**
- 104.140 **Continue consolidating its achievements in promoting the rights and welfare of migrant workers (Dominican Republic).**

105. **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 Dominica was headed by the Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, Honourable Francine Baron, and composed of the following members:

- Ms. Adi Tama Nakinda Daniel, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of Dominica;
 - Mrs Pearl Fiona Richards-Xavier, Chief Parliamentary Council Chambers of the Attorney General.
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