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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Bangladesh

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



Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its forty-fourth session from 6 to 17 November 2023. The review of Bangladesh was held at the 11th meeting, on 13 November 2023. The delegation of Bangladesh was headed by the Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Anisul Huq. At its 16th meeting, held on 15 November 2023, the Working Group adopted the report on Bangladesh.
2. On 11 January 2023, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Bangladesh: Cuba, Pakistan and Romania.
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 Bangladesh:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);¹
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);²
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).³
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Canada, Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay was transmitted to Bangladesh 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 Bangladesh noted that Bangladesh placed great importance on the universal periodic review mechanism, a unique peer review process for global protection and promotion of human rights. Despite the marking that year of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, violations of human rights persisted, causing deprivation, discrimination and injustice among vulnerable segments of the population globally, including, shamefully, even children.
6. In August 2017, recalling its own suffering during its Liberation War, Bangladesh – led by the Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina Wazed – had opened its borders to the Rohingya. More than 1.2 million Rohingya were now in temporary shelter in Bangladesh, with more than 30,000 newborns every year. It was frustrating for both the Rohingya and host communities that even after six long years, not a single Rohingya was able to return to Myanmar. The Government of Bangladesh demanded their safe, dignified and voluntary repatriation to Myanmar. Bangladesh emphasized that it alone could not solve the crisis that Myanmar had imposed upon the Rohingya.
7. Efforts to enhance economic growth included key infrastructure projects: for example, the Padma Multipurpose Bridge; the Dhaka Metro Rail service, the first such service in Bangladesh; and the 3.2-kilometre Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel under the Karnaphuli River, the first of its kind in South Asia. Several other projects were currently being implemented.

¹ [A/HRC/WG.6/44/BGD/1](#).

² [A/HRC/WG.6/44/BGD/2](#).

³ [A/HRC/WG.6/44/BGD/3](#).

8. Bangladesh aimed to achieve a knowledge-based “Smart Bangladesh” by 2041 and a prosperous and climate-resilient delta by 2100, by ensuring sustainable economic growth, women’s empowerment and equal opportunities for all.

9. Notable achievements included a reduction in the poverty headcount ratio from 41.5 per cent in 2006 to 18.7 per cent in 2022, and in the extreme poverty headcount ratio from 25.1 per cent to 5.6 per cent. Per capita income had tripled in a decade, with the gross domestic product (GDP) reaching \$460 billion, making Bangladesh the twenty-fifth largest economy in terms of GDP based on purchasing power parity and the thirty-fifth largest economy by nominal GDP globally, according to the International Monetary Fund. The country sought to address the Rohingya crisis and contribute to global human rights efforts while advancing its economic and social development goals.

10. Ranked fifth globally and first in South Asia in terms of resilience to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Bangladesh had achieved full vaccination of members of its target population at no cost to them, despite severe resource constraints. As for financial and other incentives, the Government allocated 4 per cent of GDP, totalling more than \$14.6 billion, through 28 packages to benefit 73 million people, emphasizing the connection to human rights.

11. Since the previous review cycle, Bangladesh had closely collaborated with United Nations human rights mechanisms, having submitted its initial report under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 2019 and engaged with the Committee against Torture and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The fact that Bangladesh had hosted 10 visits by seven special procedure mandate holders and five visits by the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar had showcased the nation’s commitment to human rights. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had visited in August 2022, the first official visit by any United Nations human rights chief, with Bangladesh pledging continued cooperation.

12. Under the current Prime Minister, there had been a notable improvement in political space for opposition parties in parliament, with the granting of maximum liberty and chairmanship positions, contrary to past practices. In response to recommendations from previous review cycles on accountability of law enforcement agencies, Bangladesh maintained a zero-tolerance policy, conducting thorough investigations and implementing stringent measures.

13. A harmonious coexistence of people from diverse religions, races and ethnic backgrounds characterized the social fabric in Bangladesh, with legislative and policy measures formulated to protect minorities. The commitment to implementing the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord was evidenced in the reconstitution of the Accord implementation committee in 2018, which had resulted in the implementation of 65 out of 72 clauses, the partial implementation of three and ongoing efforts towards implementing the remaining four.

14. The Constitution guaranteed freedom of opinion and speech, and effective measures had been taken by the Government to ensure freedom of expression, both online and offline, and freedom of the press and media. The vibrant media landscape included 39 television channels, 576 daily newspapers, 182 online portals of daily newspaper, 2,328 local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and 267 international NGOs, which operated without government restriction or censorship.

15. In 2023, Bangladesh was recognized by the World Economic Forum in its Global Gender Gap Report as one of only two countries globally in which women had held the highest political positions for longer than men. Women’s empowerment and gender equality, integral to the Prime Minister’s 10 special initiatives, remained central to national development.

16. The Government had demonstrated its commitment to the rights of women and children by banning corporal punishment in all educational institutions and by implementing the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2018–2030 and

the National Action Plan to End Child Marriage 2018–2030, developed in collaboration with NGOs and other civil society organizations.

17. Numerous administrative measures had been taken to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities, including the introduction of an integrated education programme for children with visual impairments. The Government had reserved a quota of 1 per cent for persons with disabilities in its recruitment for “class I” positions and of 10 per cent for lower job categories.

18. Bangladesh had continued its commitment to safeguarding the rights of migrant workers, playing a leading international role in promoting the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. In 2019, Bangladesh had acceded to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

19. Since the previous review cycle, significant initiatives had been undertaken to reform the labour sector, including the enactment of the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Labour Act (2019), the publication in 2022 of the Export Processing Zones Labour Rules and the adoption of the National Action Plan on the Labour Sector of Bangladesh 2021–2026. In 2021, Bangladesh had submitted a road map to the International Labour Organization (ILO) to address outstanding labour issues and, in 2022, had ratified the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138). Notably, through a recent announcement, an increase of 56.25 per cent in the minimum wage for workers in the ready-made garment industry, excluding overtime, had been formalized.

20. The Government had taken measures to empower underprivileged sectors of society, including the Bede community, hijras, Dalits, Harijans and tea-plantation workers, in order to improve their quality of life, access to government services and integration into mainstream society.

21. In 2022, Bangladesh had achieved a major milestone by providing 100 per cent of its population with electricity coverage. Ongoing efforts focused on realizing free and compulsory education as guaranteed by the Constitution, and the adult literacy rate had consequently reached 76.43 per cent in 2021. Stipends awarded to female primary-school students had contributed to enrolment rates of nearly 100 per cent and to gender parity in primary education.

22. Despite being among the lowest emitters of carbon dioxide, Bangladesh faced significant climate vulnerability. Climate adaptation and mitigation had therefore been integrated into national development policies, leading to the formulation of the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, the National Adaptation Plan of Bangladesh (2023–2050), the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 and a policy on renewable energy.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

23. During the interactive dialogue, 110 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

24. Romania acknowledged the progress made with regard to labour rights, gender equality and education, and highlighted ongoing challenges to human rights implementation.

25. The Russian Federation noted positive changes related to human rights and the efforts by Bangladesh to bring its legislation into line with international standards.

26. Saudi Arabia praised Bangladesh for hosting Rohingya refugees and noted the adoption of laws and policies contributing to the promotion of human rights.

27. Serbia applauded Bangladesh for its engagement with human rights bodies and highlighted advancements in law, justice and poverty reduction.

28. Sierra Leone praised Bangladesh for hosting Rohingya refugees and commended it for having facilitated visits by special procedure mandate holders.

29. Singapore encouraged Bangladesh to improve its education system and to ensure equal access for women and children. It recognized efforts made to protect youth against drugs, and encouraged cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
30. Slovakia urged Bangladesh to halt extrajudicial killings and to investigate cases of disappearance, and commended it for its efforts to shelter Rohingya.
31. Slovenia acknowledged the progress made in preventing violence against women and children and ending child marriage.
32. Spain considered the revision of the National Action Plan to Eliminate Child Labour to be positive.
33. Sri Lanka commended Bangladesh for having adopted legislative and policy reforms and enhanced democratic institutions.
34. The Sudan welcomed the legislation on the appointment of election commissioners and supervisors of the electoral process and the measures taken on climate change adaptation.
35. Sweden expressed concerns about child marriage, violence against women and girls, and freedom of expression.
36. Switzerland made recommendations.
37. The Syrian Arab Republic commended Bangladesh for its comprehensive approach to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.
38. Thailand commended Bangladesh for its efforts to promote an adequate standard of living and access to health care for people in a disadvantaged situation.
39. Timor-Leste noted the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2018–2030, and achievements in reducing poverty.
40. Togo welcomed efforts to prevent violence against women and children and to protect persons with disabilities.
41. Tunisia noted achievements in women's empowerment, gender equality and the protection of children's rights.
42. Türkiye welcomed progress made in poverty alleviation and in women's empowerment, and the hosting of Rohingya refugees.
43. Turkmenistan noted the adoption of acts, regulations and plans to improve socioeconomic conditions.
44. Ukraine commended Bangladesh for progress made in poverty reduction and in access to education and health care.
45. The United Arab Emirates commended Bangladesh for efforts to promote and protect human rights.
46. The United Kingdom welcomed the hosting of Rohingya refugees and noted that it looked forward to free, fair and peaceful upcoming elections.
47. The United Republic of Tanzania noted efforts to ensure the advancement of women in all sectors.
48. The United States urged Bangladesh to restore inclusive, transparent and democratic processes and provide space for dissenting voices.
49. Uruguay highlighted the active relationship that Bangladesh had developed with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.
50. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela commended Bangladesh for having adopted an education policy on disability, improved health infrastructure and reduced child mortality.
51. Viet Nam noted the implementation of social security plans and programmes, and progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
52. Yemen commended Bangladesh for efforts to enhance the independence of the national human rights institution and to implement several human rights plans.

53. Afghanistan noted the commitment of Bangladesh towards gender equality and women's empowerment.
54. Algeria expressed appreciation for the adoption of the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2018–2030.
55. Angola welcomed the National Action Plan to End Child Marriage 2018–2030 and gains in poverty reduction.
56. Argentina commended Bangladesh for having improved women's formal participation in political decision-making processes.
57. Armenia welcomed steps towards poverty elimination, gender equality and women's empowerment.
58. Australia noted the new Cybersecurity Act, but stressed that such an act should safeguard freedom of expression, and called on Bangladesh to bring perpetrators of cases of disappearance to justice.
59. Azerbaijan noted measures taken to ensure social security and access to health care and education.
60. The Bahamas praised Bangladesh for the progress made with regard to climate-related human rights and for meeting its reporting obligations to the treaty bodies.
61. Bahrain commended Bangladesh for the outstanding developments in its legislative and executive institutions.
62. Barbados commended Bangladesh for its legislative reforms, the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2018–2030 and its zero-tolerance approach to drugs and crime.
63. The delegation of Bangladesh, regarding the upcoming general elections, emphasized the Government's commitment to conducting free, fair and peaceful elections, with the people's participation, in accordance with the Constitution. The Government had ensured that the Election Commission had the wherewithal and sufficient enforcement powers to enable it to carry out its functions with full independence, credibility and efficiency. Measures taken to strengthen the Election Commission included the enactment of the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Appointment Act (2022) and the Parliament Election (Electronic Voting Machine) Rules (2018), and the Conduct Rules for Political Parties and Candidates (2008) and the Election Conduct Rules (2008) had been amended to make elections more fair, inclusive and credible.
64. The demand by the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party for the next general elections to be held under a caretaker government was unconstitutional and illegal. Despite the Government's efforts to facilitate political activities peacefully, some political parties, particularly the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and its allies, had responded with violence against law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, media personnel, civilians and public institutions. The Government's responses to these actions were minimal, reasonable and restrained, with no arbitrary detention and with arrests only for specific allegations, without political considerations.
65. The delegation noted the conviction of Begum Khaleda Zia, former Chairperson of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, on corruption charges, and the ongoing cases from the time of the caretaker Administration in power from 2007 to 2008. The Prime Minister had suspended Ms. Zia's sentence on account of her health condition, and she was receiving treatment at Evercare Hospital in Dhaka. Since the application had been disposed of on the basis of conditions accepted by Ms. Zia, the law did not allow subsequent amendments or alterations to the same application.
66. Regarding the ratification of conventions and optional protocols, Bangladesh was a State party to eight out of the nine core human rights treaties, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The decision as to whether to become a party to the remaining core human rights treaty – the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance – was contingent

upon capacity-building for national institutions to be able to meet the obligations emanating from it. A detailed analysis of the provisions of the Convention and their implications on the existing legal system in Bangladesh was also necessary.

67. The death penalty was reserved exclusively for the most serious and heinous crimes, with a gradual shift towards alternative punishments such as life imprisonment.

68. Bangladesh maintained contact with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, providing information on cases and further updates relating to almost all the cases of alleged enforced disappearance.

69. Bangladesh had taken a series of steps relating to gender equality, including reviewing existing laws and gradually amending laws that undermined equal opportunities for women and men in all spheres of national life.

70. Efforts to address violence against children included efforts towards a ban on corporal punishment in all settings. Corporal punishment in educational institutions had already been banned. The Children Act (2013) provided for punishment for all forms of violence against children. Since 2018, 13,998 cases had been filed for crimes against children.

71. Belarus noted efforts to broaden access to education and to protect the rights of women, children and older persons.

72. Belgium congratulated Bangladesh for the progress made with regard to education, health and mortality rates, urging more efforts in human rights.

73. Bhutan expressed appreciation for the active role played by Bangladesh in the Human Rights Council, and noted progress made in women's political empowerment and achievements related to the Sustainable Development Goals.

74. Botswana praised Bangladesh for the positive steps taken on human rights, particularly the strengthening of the independence of the National Human Rights Commission and development of the National Strategy for Adolescent Health 2017–2030.

75. Brazil acknowledged the commitment of Bangladesh to poverty elimination and encouraged it to sustain its efforts, and expressed appreciation for its hosting of Rohingya refugees.

76. Brunei Darussalam recognized socioeconomic achievements during the COVID-19 pandemic, and praised efforts in the delivery of health services in rural areas.

77. Burundi acknowledged progress made with regard to human rights and expressed appreciation for the population-centred development programme focusing on vulnerable groups.

78. Cabo Verde commended Bangladesh for progress made in poverty reduction and for the national policy for persons with disabilities.

79. Cambodia acknowledged the continued engagement of Bangladesh with United Nations human rights mechanisms and the special procedures.

80. Cameroon congratulated Bangladesh for the quality of its national report for the fourth review cycle.

81. Canada thanked Bangladesh for hosting over one million Rohingya refugees until conditions permitted their repatriation.

82. Chile commended Bangladesh for having adopted the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2018–2030 and ratified the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138).

83. China commended Bangladesh for efforts in promoting economic and social development, eradicating poverty, tackling climate change and combating drug-related crime.

84. Costa Rica congratulated Bangladesh for having adopted the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2018–2030.

85. Cuba acknowledged the commitment of Bangladesh to implementing recommendations from previous review cycles.
86. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea commended Bangladesh for efforts towards poverty elimination.
87. Denmark encouraged Bangladesh to promote democracy, free speech and tolerance, and expressed regret at the lack of implementation of recommendations from previous review cycles.
88. Djibouti commended Bangladesh for legal reforms and efforts towards strengthening the rights of women, children, minorities and marginalized groups.
89. Egypt praised Bangladesh for having passed or amended legislation to promote the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities and ensure freedom of religion.
90. Estonia commended Bangladesh for measures on gender equality and the protection of refugees, but expressed concern about child marriage.
91. Ethiopia commended Bangladesh for having implemented the recommendations from the previous review cycles and for its commitment to human rights.
92. Finland welcomed the repeal from the Evidence Act of gender-discriminatory provisions related to rape survivors and court hearings.
93. France encouraged further efforts on labour rights, including trade union rights.
94. The Gambia expressed appreciation for the commitment of Bangladesh to humanitarian principles by providing refuge to the Rohingya population.
95. Georgia expressed appreciation for efforts in strengthening the institutional framework and in reducing poverty.
96. Germany commended Bangladesh for the increased public participation of women, while expressing concern at increasing limitations to freedoms.
97. Ghana welcomed the strengthening of the institutional framework and the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2018–2030.
98. Hungary commended Bangladesh for its continued engagement with human rights mechanisms, and noted improvements in the empowerment of women and girls.
99. Iceland made recommendations.
100. India expressed appreciation for the engagement of Bangladesh with the human rights mechanisms and its efforts on the advancement of women, including representation in decision-making processes.
101. Indonesia expressed appreciation for the commitment of Bangladesh and its proactive role in extending humanitarian efforts to forcibly displaced persons and for various legislative and policy measures.
102. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended Bangladesh for hosting a significant number of displaced Rohingya refugees.
103. Iraq welcomed the adoption of legislative measures and national policies, and the strengthening of the judicial system to ensure justice and prevent impunity.
104. Ireland commended Bangladesh for the legal recognition of hijras, but expressed concern about cases of violence against women and restrictions on freedom of expression.
105. Italy noted the ratification of ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and the adoption of the National Action Plan on the Labour Sector of Bangladesh 2021–2026.
106. Japan commended Bangladesh for sheltering forcibly displaced persons from neighbouring countries, while expressing concern about violence against women and persons with disabilities.

107. Jordan expressed appreciation for the coordination of Bangladesh with United Nations mechanisms, and for the adoption by the National Human Rights Commission of its strategic plan for the period 2022–2026).
108. Kazakhstan noted the adoption of action plans to prevent violence against women and children and to end child marriage.
109. Kenya noted the official country visits by special procedure mandate holders, the improvements in legislation and the adoption of plans to promote and protect human rights.
110. The delegation of Bangladesh noted that the Government was mindful of protecting human rights defenders, civil society and bloggers and thus creating space for freedom of expression. Individuals receiving threats were eligible to request police protection. The aim of the Cybersecurity Act (2023), replacing the Digital Security Act (2018), was to create a transparent, accountable and secure digital environment in Bangladesh. Notably, under the new act, several offences that had been non-bailable under the Digital Security Act had become bailable, with only four sections remaining non-bailable owing to their technical nature.
111. Kuwait commended Bangladesh for realizing the rights of refugee citizens of Myanmar to return safely and for its efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.
112. Kyrgyzstan noted the Government's efforts to implement recommendations from the third review cycle.
113. The Lao People's Democratic Republic commended Bangladesh for its cooperation with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, and for progress made in advancing gender equality.
114. Lebanon welcomed efforts in promoting and protecting human rights.
115. Libya praised Bangladesh for its eighth five-year plan (2020–2025) and for its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals.
116. Liechtenstein made recommendations.
117. Lithuania welcomed progress made in addressing the negative impact of climate change on the enjoyment of human rights.
118. Luxembourg made recommendations.
119. Madagascar welcomed the adoption of the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2018–2030, and the policy on older persons.
120. Malaysia welcomed the significant humanitarian efforts in sheltering over 1 million Rohingya refugees.
121. Maldives welcomed the adoption of the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2018–2030.
122. The Marshall Islands commended Bangladesh for its presidency of the Climate Vulnerable Forum.
123. Mauritius expressed appreciation for efforts in promoting women's empowerment and gender equality and called for the enactment of the anti-discrimination bill.
124. Mexico welcomed the visit in 2022 of the previous High Commissioner, and the legal recognition of hijras.
125. Montenegro urged Bangladesh to prohibit the reported forced abortion and sterilization among women with disabilities.
126. Morocco welcomed the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy Action Plan (2021–2030) for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
127. Nepal expressed appreciation for progress made in achieving gender equality and the commitment of Bangladesh to fostering religious diversity and interfaith harmony.

128. The Kingdom of the Netherlands noted with concern the increase in intimidation and trials against the media, human rights defenders and civil society.
129. The Niger noted the implementation of the population-centred development agenda, including on women, children, climate change and sustainable development.
130. Nigeria commended Bangladesh for improvements in women's participation in the workforce, access to education and political representation.
131. Norway recognized achievements in economic development but expressed concern about the shrinking civic space.
132. Oman welcomed the adoption by the National Human Rights Commission of its third five-year strategic plan (2022–2026).
133. Pakistan expressed appreciation for continued engagement with United Nations human rights mechanisms and for legislative steps in the promotion and protection of human rights.
134. Panama made recommendations.
135. Paraguay welcomed the adoption of the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2018–2030.
136. Peru made recommendations.
137. The Philippines welcomed the adoption of the National Skills Development Authority Act (2018) and the Mental Health Act (2018).
138. Poland welcomed efforts to advance economic, social and cultural rights and accelerate progress in the eradication of poverty.
139. Portugal commended Bangladesh for having adopted the Mental Health Act.
140. Qatar noted the adoption of policies and plans, increasing allocations to the national human rights institution and measures to combat corruption.
141. The Republic of Korea welcomed the zero-tolerance policy on violence against religious minorities, and women's empowerment.
142. The State of Palestine acknowledged commitments by Bangladesh to preventing violence against children in all settings and the zero-tolerance policy against violence targeting religious minorities.
143. In conclusion, the delegation of Bangladesh stated that it valued the comments and recommendations made, which the Government would undoubtedly examine and give due consideration in order to further advance the protection and promotion of human rights, gradually building a prosperous nation where everyone could fully enjoy all rights. The delegation expressed gratitude to the OHCHR secretariat and the interpreters, and to the troika – Cuba, Pakistan and Romania – for its significant role in overseeing the reporting process.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

144. **The following recommendations will be examined by Bangladesh, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the fifty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council:**
- 144.1 **Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Armenia) (Sierra Leone);**
- 144.2 **Consider signing and ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Finland);**
- 144.3 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances (Argentina) (France) (Niger);**

- 144.4 **Ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol thereto (Paraguay);**
- 144.5 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Paraguay) (Spain);**
- 144.6 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Spain);**
- 144.7 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and establish an independent mechanism to carry out effective investigations into complaints of torture (Brazil);**
- 144.8 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Denmark) (Estonia) (Switzerland);**
- 144.9 **Advance efforts towards ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Chile);**
- 144.10 **Strengthen the measures in the field of combating torture, namely aimed at ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Morocco);**
- 144.11 **Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and introducing a moratorium on the death penalty, as the first step towards its abolition (Lithuania);**
- 144.12 **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 (Portugal);**
- 144.13 **Intensify efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Ghana);**
- 144.14 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Estonia) (Iceland) (Romania);**
- 144.15 **Ratify the Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression (Liechtenstein);**
- 144.16 **Consider ratifying the Convention against Discrimination in Education of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (Mauritius);**
- 144.17 **Ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto (Niger);**
- 144.18 **Ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto, adopt a general law in line with international human rights standards that includes the concept of non-refoulement, recognize the refugee status of the Rohingya, suspend their returns to Myanmar and put an end to restrictions on their movements, including for those living in Bhasan Char (Luxembourg);**
- 144.19 **Consider ratifying the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and adopt a national implementing legislation (Sierra Leone);**
- 144.20 **Ratify the Convention relating to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Niger);**
- 144.21 **Ratify the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), and promulgate a law that recognizes the rights of Indigenous Peoples (Mexico);**

- 144.22 **Ratify the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Uruguay);**
- 144.23 **Continue to engage with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and development partners to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights in the country (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 144.24 **Continue its engagement with the United Nations human rights mechanisms to protect and promote human rights (Türkiye);**
- 144.25 **Continue to strengthen cooperation and constructive engagement with United Nations agencies (Kazakhstan);**
- 144.26 **Extend an open and standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders to visit the country (Paraguay);**
- 144.27 **Improve cooperation with human rights mechanisms, including by submitting outstanding reports and accepting visits by special procedures, in particular the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (Sierra Leone);**
- 144.28 **Undertake legal reforms aimed at aligning its national legislation with international human rights law (Cabo Verde);**
- 144.29 **Continue legal and institutional reform efforts related to human rights (Sudan);**
- 144.30 **Establish an independent monitoring and investigation mechanism to address allegations of human rights violations committed by police and military personnel (Costa Rica);**
- 144.31 **Ensure adequate training for the police force on the protection of human rights defenders (France);**
- 144.32 **Maintain its awareness-raising and training activities on human rights for the general public to raise legal awareness across the country (Turkmenistan);**
- 144.33 **Provide the necessary support to the national human rights institution to enable it to fulfil its mandate in the best possible manner and in conformity with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (United Arab Emirates);**
- 144.34 **Continue to strengthen the role of the National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles (Republic of Korea);**
- 144.35 **Strengthen measures to upgrade its national human rights institution to A status, in line with the Paris Principles (Nepal);**
- 144.36 **Allocate financial and technical resources to the National Human Rights Commission to enable it to fulfil its mandate (State of Palestine);**
- 144.37 **Strengthen the independence of the National Human Rights Commission, including by allocating adequate funding (Poland);**
- 144.38 **Continue efforts to strengthen the National Human Rights Commission and enhance its performance (Qatar);**
- 144.39 **Continue to allocate financial and technical resources to the National Human Rights Commission to enable it to fulfil its mandate (Afghanistan);**
- 144.40 **Continue efforts to strengthen the judicial system and the effectiveness and independence of the National Human Rights Commission (Ethiopia);**
- 144.41 **Establish a permanent national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up on recommendations about human rights and consider the possibility of receiving cooperation to that end (Paraguay);**

- 144.42 **Establish a more effective mechanism for monitoring recommendations emanating from the United Nations in the area of human rights (Cabo Verde);**
- 144.43 **Take further steps to fight all forms of violence and discrimination (Italy);**
- 144.44 **Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation prohibiting direct, indirect and multiple forms of discrimination on any grounds and providing effective remedies for victims (Montenegro);**
- 144.45 **Implement the anti-discrimination bill (2022) as soon as possible (Barbados);**
- 144.46 **Implement the anti-discrimination bill to improve protection against discrimination, in particular on the grounds of gender, ethnicity, caste or religion (Germany);**
- 144.47 **Work towards concluding the procedures for the adoption of the anti-discrimination bill (United Arab Emirates);**
- 144.48 **Continue with the legislative process of adopting the draft anti-discrimination law in line with recommendations by the relevant United Nations bodies (Serbia);**
- 144.49 **Adopt legislative measures against discrimination between women and men, and against discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or identity, and other grounds (Spain);** 144.50 **Redouble efforts to combat discrimination by strengthening the regulatory framework to prohibit all discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, caste, religion, gender, disability and economic status (Peru);**
- 144.51 **Continue efforts to combat discrimination against women and girls, minorities, persons with disabilities and marginalized groups (Barbados);**
- 144.52 **Continue to commit to promoting and protecting the rights of women, children, minorities and marginalized groups, maintaining focus on the principle of equality and non-discrimination enshrined in the Constitution (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**
- 144.53 **Accelerate the promotion of non-discrimination of minorities, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, including migrants (Cameroon);**
- 144.54 **Maintain efforts towards the promotion and protection of the rights of women, children, minorities and marginalized groups (Ethiopia);**
- 144.55 **Continue efforts to combat racial discrimination through the implementation of preventive policies (Morocco);**
- 144.56 **Restrict the use of the death penalty to crimes that meet the threshold of "most serious crimes" under international law (Belgium);**
- 144.57 **Take steps towards the full and legal abolition of the death penalty (Liechtenstein);**
- 144.58 **Review the breadth of death penalty offences to align domestic legislation with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);**
- 144.59 **Adopt legislation abolishing the death penalty and establish a moratorium on all pending executions (Ukraine);**
- 144.60 **Establish a moratorium on the death penalty, continue its efforts to commute all death sentences to other penalties and review the application of all relevant laws in this regard (Togo);**
- 144.61 **Abolish the death penalty and strengthen its engagement with national human rights institutions (Cabo Verde);**

- 144.62 **Abolish the death penalty (Costa Rica) (France);**
- 144.63 **Consider introducing a moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to abolishing it (Timor-Leste); Consider establishing a moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Kenya); Introduce a moratorium on the use of death penalty (Estonia); Introduce a moratorium as a first step towards the definitive abolition of the death penalty (Spain); Establish a moratorium on the use of death penalty, with a view to abolishing it in the future (Ghana); Establish a moratorium on the death penalty, and continue efforts to commute all death sentences (Madagascar); Abolish the death penalty and establish a moratorium on all pending executions (Slovakia); Establish a moratorium on the death penalty, as a first step towards its complete abolition (Italy);**
- 144.64 **Establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, continue its efforts to commute all death sentences and review the application of all relevant laws in that regard (Brazil);**
- 144.65 **Abolish the death penalty and replace it with a fair and proportionate sentence aligned with international human rights standards (Panama);**
- 144.66 **Prevent cases of torture and enforced disappearance (Italy);**
- 144.67 **Take effective measures to prevent arbitrary arrest, torture and other ill-treatment of civil society activists, lawyers and journalists who have criticized the authorities' conduct, and investigate all existing cases (Slovakia);**
- 144.68 **Protect all civil society activists, lawyers and journalists from harassment, arbitrary arrest, torture, ill-treatment and violence (Liechtenstein);**
- 144.69 **Revise all legislation related to rape to strengthen the legal protection for victims (Norway);**
- 144.70 **Strengthen efforts to combat terrorism and violent extremism, including by adopting a whole-of-society approach (Indonesia);**
- 144.71 **Continue to operationalize national institutions that promote human rights, the rule of law, democracy and good governance (Yemen);**
- 144.72 **Ensure free and transparent parliamentary elections in January 2024 (Slovakia);**
- 144.73 **Protect the ability of citizens of Bangladesh to vote and choose their Government by ensuring free and fair elections held in a peaceful manner (United States of America);**
- 144.74 **Ensure that the use of force by law enforcement officials is in line with international human rights standards and that all alleged violations are promptly and thoroughly investigated (Liechtenstein);**
- 144.75 **Investigate, hold accountable and prosecute, as appropriate, members of security forces and others who commit and have committed human rights violations and abuses (United States of America);**
- 144.76 **Investigate human rights abuses promptly, ensure accountability for violations and establish remedies for past atrocities (Gambia);**
- 144.77 **Continue to strengthen the judiciary to ensure justice for all and prevent impunity (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 144.78 **Take the measures necessary to reform the judicial system and ensure its independence in order to achieve justice and overcome impunity (Libya);**
- 144.79 **Strengthen the independence of the judicial system and measures to ensure respect for the rule of law and the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly, association and expression for all, especially for human rights defenders and journalists (Romania);**

- 144.80 **Take steps to ensure the full independence of the judiciary from the executive and from parliament (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 144.81 **Implement additional measures to guarantee access to justice for all (Burundi);**
- 144.82 **Guarantee the independence of the judiciary and the full exercise of the right of defence (Italy);**
- 144.83 **Strengthen the rule of law, including by ensuring the independence of the judiciary, equality before the law, the right to a fair trial and access to justice (France);**
- 144.84 **Promote civil and political rights (Cameroon);**
- 144.85 **Ensure full respect for the rights to freedom of religion or belief, freedom of expression and freedom of association in accordance with its human rights obligations in law and in practice (Gambia);**
- 144.86 **Strengthen guarantees on freedom of association and peaceful assembly (France);**
- 144.87 **Uphold and protect freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association (Ukraine);**
- 144.88 **Enhance efforts to ensure the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and the religious freedom of minorities (Italy);**
- 144.89 **Put an end to obstacles to freedom of expression and peaceful association, pluralism of opinions and the work of civil society, and grant all fundamental legal guarantees to political opponents, activists and demonstrators (Luxembourg);**
- 144.90 **Consider adopting comprehensive policies in line with international obligations to contribute to the promotion and protection of freedom of opinion and expression, and the right to privacy (Lithuania);**
- 144.91 **Take effective measures to protect freedom of expression and prevent violence against journalists, and ensure that the Cybersecurity Act is in line with international standards (Republic of Korea);**
- 144.92 **Revise all laws, regulations and practices concerning freedom of opinion and expression, both online and offline, to bring them into full compliance with international human rights standards and to remove undue restrictions on them (Estonia);**
- 144.93 **Issue an immediate moratorium on the use of the Digital Security Act and harmonize its provisions with international human rights law (Mexico);**
- 144.94 **Repeal the 2018 Digital Security Act and amend the Cybersecurity Act in line with the relevant international human rights treaties (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**
- 144.95 **Review the Digital Security Act to ensure that it is in line with international standards regarding the right to privacy (Liechtenstein);**
- 144.96 **Amend the Cybersecurity Act, of 2023, so that it is brought into compliance with human rights, in particular with the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Switzerland);**
- 144.97 **Repeal or rewrite the Cybersecurity Act, as it fails to address the most problematic aspects of the former Digital Security Act (Norway);**
- 144.98 **Repeal or amend the laws restricting freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly, including the Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act and the Cybersecurity Act, so that they are fully in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Belgium);**

- 144.99 **Ensure that the Cybersecurity Act, of 2023, is in full accordance with obligations under international law and ensure swift processing or termination of all outstanding cases under the old Digital Security Act (Germany);**
- 144.100 **Review and adjust its legislation, notably the Cybersecurity Act, to bring it into line with the right to freedom of expression as set out in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Denmark);**
- 144.101 **Repeal the Cybersecurity Act which, like its predecessors, criminalizes freedom of expression and could facilitate the ongoing and increasing targeting and judicial harassment of dissenting voices (Canada);**
- 144.102 **Review laws and procedures, especially those aimed at governing digital space, to ensure alignment with international standards guaranteeing freedom of expression and to reduce the scope for judicial harassment (Sweden);**
- 144.103 **Adapt the new Cybersecurity Act to allow journalists and human rights defenders to carry out their duties without fear of intimidation or reprisals (Spain);**
- 144.104 **Remove provisions limiting freedom of expression from the draft cybersecurity act and ensure that, once adopted, it is compliant with international human rights law (Ireland);**
- 144.105 **Safeguard freedom of expression by amending the provisions of the Cybersecurity Act that criminalize speech (Australia);**
- 144.106 **Take effective measures to ensure that the press can work freely without censorship, threats, physical assaults or killings (Slovakia);**
- 144.107 **Ensure that human rights defenders, journalists and civil society have a safe and enabling environment and can operate freely without fear of reprisals (Poland);**
- 144.108 **Take measures to guarantee a safe and transparent environment for civil society, human rights defenders and the media, ensuring that they can exercise their rights to freedom of expression and assembly without fear of repercussions (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 144.109 **Ensure that journalists, human rights and labour rights defenders and others are not prosecuted or detained for the exercise of their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly or association, and ensure all individuals receive free trial guarantees (United States of America);**
- 144.110 **Establish protection guarantees for human rights defenders (Costa Rica);**
- 144.111 **Ensure a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders and civil society, including by ceasing all acts of reprisals (Norway);**
- 144.112 **Protect human rights defenders, including women's rights defenders, including through enhanced training and awareness-raising within the law enforcement structures (Finland);**
- 144.113 **Strengthen family protection policies within the framework of protection of the rights of children and women (Egypt);**
- 144.114 **Endorse the draft law on reproductive health and family planning without any further delay (Slovenia);**
- 144.115 **Implement further measures to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children (Georgia);**
- 144.116 **Strengthen measures to combat trafficking in persons, especially children, and expand the scope of support and protection services for victims (Qatar);**

- 144.117 Continue to pay due attention to the problem of trafficking in human beings (Russian Federation);
- 144.118 Continue to pay due attention to the issue of trafficking in persons at the national and international levels (Jordan);
- 144.119 Continue to pay attention to the issue of trafficking in persons, both at the national and international levels, with a view to eliminating trafficking in persons (Sri Lanka);
- 144.120 Continue to pay due attention to the issue of trafficking in persons in all forms and find means to tackle this phenomenon, including by enhancing cooperation at all levels (Hungary);
- 144.121 Promote collaboration at all levels to combat trafficking in persons, particularly women, girls and children (Bahrain);
- 144.122 Integrate meaningful measures to prevent trafficking in persons and forced labour into climate change adaptation and mitigation plans, including the national action plan (Chile);
- 144.123 Consider adopting new measures to apply the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, and the national action plan for the period 2018–2023, as means of alleviating the impact of this scourge (Cuba);
- 144.124 Effectively implement the extended national action plan to prevent and suppress trafficking in persons and ensure its renewal after 2025 (Indonesia);
- 144.125 Increase efforts to strengthen protections for victims of trafficking, including by implementing a victim-centred approach (Malaysia);
- 144.126 Further revise the Bangladesh Labour Rules to comply with international labour standards and remove all remaining obstacles to workers' unionization (Norway);
- 144.127 Establish a national universal minimum wage and raise the existing minimum wages to ensure a decent living for all workers and their families (Poland);
- 144.128 Establish a national minimum wage and intensify labour inspections, to address forced labour cases and prevent occupational accidents (Portugal);
- 144.129 Intensify efforts to reduce the wage gap between men and women, and ensure women's access to the labour market (Saudi Arabia);
- 144.130 Intensify efforts to reduce the wage gap between men and women, and ensure women's access to the labour market (Nigeria);
- 144.131 Reduce the gender pay gap and incorporate the principle of equal pay for work of equal value into legislation (Slovenia);
- 144.132 Intensify efforts to ensure women's access to the labour market (Bhutan);
- 144.133 Improve working conditions by ensuring workers' safety and fully implement its obligations under international conventions, especially the ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), and Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98) (Canada);
- 144.134 Improve the working conditions of all workers, especially women, in particular by further working towards decent pay regardless of gender, universal social coverage and the free expression of their trade union rights (Luxembourg);
- 144.135 Continue to implement the national social security strategy, focusing on women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons (Viet Nam);

- 144.136 Continue to implement the national social security strategy, focusing on women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons (Algeria);
- 144.137 Continue to implement national social security programmes, including supporting vulnerable categories of the population (Belarus);
- 144.138 Further strengthen its integrated social security support programmes (Ethiopia);
- 144.139 Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development to improve people's living standards (China);
- 144.140 Strengthen efforts to reduce poverty and malnutrition and redouble efforts to implement the national action plan for food security (Iraq);
- 144.141 Continue to implement the anti-poverty programme by supporting microfinance enterprises (United Arab Emirates);
- 144.142 Continue its efforts to reduce poverty among the most vulnerable population groups (Bhutan);
- 144.143 Continue to support programmes pertinent to the elimination of poverty from the country (Türkiye);
- 144.144 Continue efforts to provide adequate housing for poor families (Tunisia);
- 144.145 Take targeted measures aimed at accelerating access to safe drinking water for ethnic minorities, women and girls, older persons and the coastal population, within water-related national plans, policies and strategies (Slovenia);
- 144.146 Promote access to drinking water and sanitation for all, especially in rural areas (State of Palestine);
- 144.147 Continue to promote access to clean drinking water and sanitation for all, especially in rural areas (Maldives);
- 144.148 Strengthen the implementation of its strategies and plans that guarantee access to clean and safe drinking water and sanitation services for communities in rural areas (Malaysia);
- 144.149 Intensify efforts to ensure that its people fully enjoy good health, including mental health, and access to health care and support (Brunei Darussalam);
- 144.150 Continue efforts aiming at improving the quality and affordability of health-care services (Iraq);
- 144.151 Improve access to basic health care and to impartial, independent and transparent justice, particularly in rural and remote areas (Luxembourg);
- 144.152 Take further steps to improve health-care infrastructure, including in rural areas (Russian Federation);
- 144.153 Continue efforts to improve health infrastructure, especially in rural areas (Jordan);
- 144.154 Continue efforts to improve health infrastructure, particularly in rural areas (India);
- 144.155 Continue to make further efforts to improve health infrastructure particularly in rural areas (Pakistan);
- 144.156 Continue efforts to ensure access for people in rural areas to health-care services, including by improving health-care infrastructure (Azerbaijan);

- 144.157 Continue efforts aimed at extending health insurance coverage to all and at improving health infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, with a view to reducing and preventing maternal and infant mortality (Djibouti);
- 144.158 Enhance access to health care and further improve the quality of maternal and neonatal health care (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 144.159 Continue to make further efforts to improve health infrastructure, particularly in rural areas (Viet Nam);
- 144.160 Continue efforts to reduce and prevent maternal and infant mortality (Algeria);
- 144.161 Take further measures to improve access by children, mothers and newborns to full health care (Kuwait);
- 144.162 Take steps to train and recruit more health-care professionals to address the shortage of skilled health-care workers in various parts of the country (Bahamas);
- 144.163 Strengthen the implementation of the National Strategy for Adolescent Health 2017–2030 by allocating the necessary human and technical resources to ensure optimal results (Botswana);
- 144.164 Expand the grounds on which abortion is permitted, to include women’s physical and mental health, fetal impairment, rape and incest (Iceland);
- 144.165 Implement effectively the national mental health policy with a view to providing comprehensive, inclusive and accessible mental health care for all (Thailand);
- 144.166 Adopt an adequately funded national strategy to address the potentially high number of hidden cases of Hansen’s disease, with a focus on combating discrimination and stigmatization (Portugal);
- 144.167 Develop and implement comprehensive educational programmes on sexual and reproductive health, with a view to deconstructing social taboos and preventing early pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, child marriage and sexual violence (Panama);
- 144.168 Continue to increase its resource allocation to education to ensure universal and equal access to and quality of education throughout the country (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea);
- 144.169 Take measures in the direction of providing compulsory education for at least 12 years, as recommended by UNESCO (Mauritius);
- 144.170 Step up efforts to implement the Fourth Primary Education Development Programme (2018) to achieve free and compulsory primary education (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 144.171 Continue to take further measures to achieve gender equality and secondary education (Türkiye);
- 144.172 Continue efforts to implement the Fourth Primary Education Development Programme (2018) to achieve free and compulsory primary education (Algeria);
- 144.173 Continue efforts to implement the Fourth Primary Education Development Programme (2018) to achieve free and compulsory primary education (Türkiye);
- 144.174 Strengthen efforts to improve the education system and ensure equal access to quality education for all, particularly for women and girls (India);
- 144.175 Strengthen national measures and international cooperation to achieve quality education for all and realize the right to development (Saudi Arabia);

- 144.176 Strengthen national measures and international cooperation to achieve quality education for all and realize the right to development (Pakistan);
- 144.177 Continue to strengthen national measures and international cooperation to achieve quality education for all and realize the right to development (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 144.178 Intensify measures to improve the education system and ensure equal access to quality education, especially for women and girls (Russian Federation);
- 144.179 Strengthen efforts to improve the education system and ensure equal access to quality education for all, particularly women and girls (State of Palestine);
- 144.180 Take further steps aimed at achieving gender equality in secondary education (Azerbaijan);
- 144.181 Redouble efforts to invest in quality education to create a knowledge-based society (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 144.182 Continue to strengthen efforts to improve the education system and ensure equal access to quality education for all, particularly for women and girls (Maldives);
- 144.183 Strengthen the education system and ensure equal access to quality education for all, particularly for women and girls (Nigeria);
- 144.184 Strengthen efforts to improve the education system, and ensure equal access to education, especially for girls (Lebanon);
- 144.185 Increase investment in education to protect the rights to education of vulnerable groups, including girls and children with disabilities (China);
- 144.186 Enhance efforts to ensure access to quality education and to sustain provision of learning facilities, safe drinking water, and sanitary and hygiene facilities (Thailand);
- 144.187 Improve access to education and further decrease school dropout rates (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 144.188 Continue efforts to implement the national school meal policy (2019) to meet the nutritional needs of children and reduce school dropout rates (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 144.189 Redouble efforts to invest in quality education to create a knowledge-based society (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 144.190 In follow-up to the recommendation in paragraph 148.24 of the report of the Working Group from the third cycle,⁴ strengthen the measures taken to ensure that all refugee children and young people have effective access to the right to education, and guarantee the registration of all refugee children born in Bangladesh, regardless of their race, religion, national origin or parents' nationality (Argentina);
- 144.191 Continue efforts in multilateral frameworks regarding the relationship between climate change and the promotion and protection of human rights (Egypt);
- 144.192 Continue the constructive engagement with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, and the intensive efforts aimed at addressing the negative impact of climate change (Lebanon);
- 144.193 Continue efforts towards addressing the negative impact of climate change and building resilience against adverse effects of climate change, particularly regarding salinity and flash floods (Sri Lanka);

⁴ [A/HRC/39/12](#).

- 144.194 Continue its national policies and programmes aimed at addressing the risks and impact of climate change (Sudan);
- 144.195 Continue to intensify efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (Cambodia);
- 144.196 Consider developing a policy strategy to deal with displacement related to climate change (Timor-Leste);
- 144.197 Undertake awareness-raising initiatives on environmentally friendly and safe sanitation practices to prevent the risk of contamination of watercourses and negative health effects (Angola);
- 144.198 Strengthen efforts to increase public awareness and educational programmes about the impact of climate change and the importance of environmental conservation (Bahamas);
- 144.199 Continue government efforts to address the negative impact of climate change, addressing salinity and flash floods (Cuba);
- 144.200 Develop a clear policy strategy to deal with persons displaced owing to the impact of climate change and ensure that it is formulated and implemented based on human rights (Marshall Islands);
- 144.201 Strengthen economic, social and cultural rights (Cameroon);
- 144.202 Continue progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and alleviating extreme poverty (Ethiopia);
- 144.203 Strengthen national measures and international cooperation to realize the right to development (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 144.204 Continue to work on the Sathi initiative to enable rural and marginalized groups to become familiar with financial matters (Oman);
- 144.205 Strengthen further the legal frameworks and support mechanisms to ensure the full realization of women's rights (Ukraine);
- 144.206 Take further measures to promote gender equality and better protect women's rights (China);
- 144.207 Continue to work with partners at all levels to protect the rights of women and girls, empowering them to fulfil their potential and lead a healthy life, free from gender-based violence (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 144.208 Continue to take measures to broaden opportunities for women and ensure gender equality (Belarus);
- 144.209 Continue efforts to promote women's rights and empowerment to guarantee their participation in all sectors of society (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 144.210 Continue to develop and implement policies and initiatives for gender equality and the advancement of women in all sectors, including their representation in the decision-making process (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 144.211 Strive for full compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and withdraw its reservations to articles 2 and 16 (1) (c) of the Convention within a specifically defined time frame (Finland);
- 144.212 Continue to improve the situation of women and girls, inter alia by ensuring full equality before the law and prosecuting any sexual act without consent as sexual assault (Germany);

- 144.213 **Strive to improve the status of women in all sectors of the economy, including increasing women's representation in decision-making at all levels (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 144.214 **Continue to enhance programmes on the economic participation of women and youth (Brunei Darussalam);**
- 144.215 **Strengthen the legal framework for the protection of women and children by amending the Penal Code to criminalize marital rape, and defining and including new forms of cybercrime to combat the online sexual exploitation of children (Panama);**
- 144.216 **Ensure the criminalization of all forms of violence against women and girls, including marital rape, sexual abuse and sexual harassment (Sweden);**
- 144.217 **Continue efforts to combat violence against women and girls (France);**
- 144.218 **Continue its work to implement the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2018–2030 (Russian Federation);**
- 144.219 **Consistently implement national programmes and plans to eliminate discrimination and violence against women (Turkmenistan);**
- 144.220 **Redouble efforts to combat discrimination and violence against women and girls, by fully implementing the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2018–2030 (Djibouti);**
- 144.221 **Continue to escalate efforts to prevent violence against women and children, adhering to the objectives outlined in its National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2018–2030 (Cambodia);**
- 144.222 **Take measures to provide the resources necessary for the full implementation of the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2018–2030 (Bahrain);**
- 144.223 **Maintain action based on the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2018–2030 (Cuba);**
- 144.224 **Ensure the effective implementation of the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2018–2030 (Bhutan);**
- 144.225 **Effectively implement the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2018–2030 (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 144.226 **Continue work on the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2018–2030 (Oman);**
- 144.227 **Continue adopting and implementing measures for the prevention of violence against women and children (Serbia);**
- 144.228 **Strengthen its efforts to implement the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2018–2030 (Algeria);**
- 144.229 **Further strengthen accountability and justice for violence against women by continuing to implement the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2018–2030 (Japan);**
- 144.230 **Continue to implement measures to end violence against women, including sexual violence, and ensure victims' access to justice and accountability (Argentina);**
- 144.231 **Investigate all reported cases of violence against women and children in a timely manner and take the steps necessary to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice (Botswana);**
- 144.232 **Ensure that all allegations of gender-based violence against women and children are thoroughly and effectively investigated and perpetrators brought to justice (Ghana);**

- 144.233 Ensure that all allegations of sexual and gender-based violence are thoroughly and effectively investigated and that the enforcement of legislation on sexual and gender-based violence is strengthened (Ireland);
- 144.234 Strengthen efforts to effectively implement national plans on gender-based violence and child marriage (Kazakhstan);
- 144.235 Enhance the implementation of the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2018–2030, with a particular focus on expanding access to justice, including the provision of support and protection to victims (Philippines);
- 144.236 Intensify action to eradicate sexual and gender-based violence in all its forms, including domestic violence, rape and sexual harassment, ensuring that reports of gender-based violence against women and girls are thoroughly and effectively investigated and that victims have access to specialized care and shelters (Peru);
- 144.237 Increase efforts to effectively investigate all allegations of all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, rape and sexual harassment, ensure accountability for the perpetrators, and provide victims with the support that they need (Lithuania);
- 144.238 Ensure that all allegations of gender-based violence against women and girls are thoroughly and effectively investigated and perpetrators brought to justice (Montenegro);
- 144.239 Ensure thorough and effective investigations of allegations of sexual and gender-based violence, and intensify action to combat child marriage by revising legislation (Paraguay);
- 144.240 Promote the protection of the rights of women and children (Cameroon);
- 144.241 Take further measures to allocate resources to fully implement the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2018–2030 (Afghanistan);
- 144.242 Continue to strengthen measures to protect children living in the streets from the worst forms of child labour, with special attention to refugee children (Peru);
- 144.243 Allocate a specific budget provision for eliminating all forms of child labour by 2025 (Angola);
- 144.244 Adopt legislation to explicitly prohibit and prevent corporal punishment everywhere (Estonia);
- 144.245 Continue efforts, by allocating sufficient human and financial resources, to reduce rates of forced child labour, through legislative reforms that reduce existing inconsistencies in the definition of child labour and its criminalization, and through the design and implementation of a national comprehensive plan on child protection (Uruguay);
- 144.246 Amend and restrict the “special provision” under article 19 of the Child Marriage Restraint Act (2017) in order to decrease the rate of child marriage (Sweden);
- 144.247 Operationalize the Child Marriage Prevention Committees to prevent and protect children from child marriage, including by establishing of monitoring mechanism (Belgium);
- 144.248 Put an end to child marriage, early marriage and forced marriage, and to dowry practices (France);
- 144.249 Eliminate child, early and forced marriage, including by reforming the Child Marriage Restraint Act, of 2017, to remove the exception that allows child

marriage if it is deemed to be “in the best interests” of the child, as this provision is ambiguous and open to abuse (Canada);

144.250 **Strengthen initiatives aimed at eliminating child marriage (Georgia);**

144.251 **Revise the Penal Code to recognize marital rape as an offence (Iceland);**

144.252 **Continue the efforts towards abolishing child marriage (Nepal);**

144.253 **Reform the Child Marriage Restraint Act to eliminate exceptions and loopholes that allow for child marriage in certain circumstances (Norway);**

144.254 **Continue to strengthen measures to prevent child marriage (Turkmenistan);**

144.255 **Make further efforts to eliminate child marriage (Armenia);**

144.256 **Step up efforts to combat child marriage (Philippines);**

144.257 **Enhance efforts to eliminate child marriage, by reformulating the Child Marriage Restraint Act to prevent misuse of “special circumstances” (Republic of Korea);**

144.258 **Intensify efforts to ensure the protection of the rights of children and migrant workers (Burundi);**

144.259 **Accelerate the drafting of a law on the rights of abandoned children to provide them with better protection (Kuwait);**

144.260 **Strengthen protection and take measures to mitigate the impact of climate change on older persons (Marshall Islands);**

144.261 **Make more efforts to promote and protect the rights of older persons, and take measures aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change on them (Qatar);**

144.262 **Pursue efforts aimed at promoting rights of children, women, persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities (Turkmenistan);**

144.263 **Take further steps to ensure the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, especially women and children with disabilities (Japan);**

144.264 **Continue to implement the National Action Plan for the Development of Persons with Disabilities (Azerbaijan);**

144.265 **Continuing to implement the National Action Plan for the Development of Persons with Disabilities (Jordan);**

144.266 **Continue to make further progress on ensuring equal rights for persons with disabilities and maintaining their dignity and freedom (Hungary);**

144.267 **Continue to implement National Action Plan for the Development of Persons with Disabilities (Pakistan);**

144.268 **Develop further and implement policies and programmes to support persons with disabilities, such as enhancing educational opportunities, increasing accessibility in public spaces and providing comprehensive health and social services (Bahamas);**

144.269 **Continue to provide free treatment services to persons with disabilities (Oman);**

144.270 **Continue efforts to enhance health care for persons with disabilities (Tunisia);**

144.271 **Enhance cyclone warnings and focus on data collection for climate-sensitive diseases, paying special attention to the assessment of the most vulnerable, including older persons and persons with disabilities (Gambia);**

- 144.272 **Take further measures to ensure skills-development and educational opportunities for persons with disabilities (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 144.273 **Continue government efforts to ensure access for persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups to all areas of political and economic life and to basic public services (Libya);**
- 144.274 **Ensure the full participation of Indigenous Peoples in parliament and local councils (Costa Rica);**
- 144.275 **Recognize and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and ensure their participation in decision-making that concerns them (Paraguay);**
- 144.276 **Explicitly recognize Indigenous Peoples' identity and rights, especially customary land rights, in accordance with international human rights provisions such as those contained in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (Germany);**
- 144.277 **Develop a time-bound action plan to ensure the full implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord (Denmark);**
- 144.278 **Take effective measures aimed at protecting and guaranteeing the rights of persons belonging to minorities (France);**
- 144.279 **Continue to take the legal, policy and administrative measures necessary to protect the rights of ethnic and religious minorities (Kenya);**
- 144.280 **Step up measures for the adoption of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, prohibiting discrimination on any grounds and ensuring adequate legal protection for persons belonging to minorities (Romania);**
- 144.281 **Strengthen the legal framework of protection for the Dalit population, and develop awareness campaigns on caste discrimination and promote inclusion and social cohesion (Costa Rica);**
- 144.282 **Collect disaggregated data on the Dalit population, including data on gender-based discrimination and violence faced by Dalit women (Mexico);**
- 144.283 **Repeal the regulatory framework and administrative acts that penalize and stigmatize consensual relationships between persons of the same sex (Argentina);**
- 144.284 **Repeal section 377 of the Penal Code, which criminalizes “unnatural behaviour” and is used to prohibit consensual same-sex sexual conduct (Montenegro);**
- 144.285 **Repeal section 377 of the Penal Code and other discriminatory laws in order to protect LGBTQI+ communities (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**
- 144.286 **Amend the Penal Code, including section 377, to decriminalize consensual same-sex relations between adults (Australia);**
- 144.287 **Decriminalize same-sex relations between consenting adults (Iceland);**
- 144.288 **Take the steps necessary to decriminalize consensual same-sex sexual acts, and to address systematic discrimination against persons belonging to sexual and gender minorities (Chile);**
- 144.289 **Ban invasive and humiliating medical examinations to prove hijra and transgender status (Iceland);**
- 144.290 **Enact legislation that protects the rights of individuals with diverse gender identities (Iceland);**

- 144.291 **Prevent non-consensual “corrective” surgeries on intersex children (Iceland);**
- 144.292 **Take the measures necessary to ensure social protection of all migrant workers and members of their families (Nigeria);**
- 144.293 **Continue to work with host countries for mutual recognition of the skills, qualifications and competencies of migrant workers (Sri Lanka);**
- 144.294 **Continue to take effective measures to further promote the rights and welfare of migrant workers, including by pursuing bilateral agreements on mutual recognition of qualifications and competencies (Philippines);**
- 144.295 **Continue to work with the international community in providing assistance and protection for irregular migrants currently under its care (Thailand);**
- 144.296 **Redouble efforts to assist, protect and reintegrate migrant workers returned to the country (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 144.297 **Continue to combat illegal migration flows through information campaigns and prosecution of criminal networks and, at the same time, promote safe, orderly and legal migration (Italy);**
- 144.298 **Respect the principle of non-refoulement by ensuring that Rohingya refugees are not transferred to any place, including their country of origin, where they risk suffering serious violations of their human rights (Switzerland);**
- 144.299 **Amend the Foreigners Act, of 1946, to classify refugees as a special category of foreigners who should not be penalized for irregular entry or stay, and provide them with access to refugee procedures and documentation (Uruguay);**
- 144.300 **Continue to improve the social conditions of Rohingya refugees and introduce standardized education in the curriculum of Myanmar for their children (Kuwait);**
- 144.301 **Promote greater protection and assistance for Rohingya refugees, including with respect to access to basic services and employability, allow their freedom of movement and respect the principle of non-refoulement (Mexico).**
145. **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 Bangladesh was headed by H.E. Mr. Anisul Huq, MP and composed of the following members:

- Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary), Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ambassador H. E. Mr. Mohammad Sufiur Rahman, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Md. Mashiur Rahman NDC, Secretary, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs;
- Mr. Md. Moinul Kabir, Secretary, Legislative & Parliamentary Affairs Division;
- Mr. Md. Ehsan-E-Elahi, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment;
- Mr. Md. Khairul Alam Shiekh, Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare;
- Mr. A K M Tipu Sultan, Addl. Secretary (Political and ICT Wing), Public Security Division;
- Ms. Shanchita Haque, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh, Geneva;
- Mr. Md Ahsan Habib, SUP, NDC, PSC, Brigadier General, Armed Forces Division;
- Mr. Md. Emdadul Islam Chowdhury, Director General, United Nations Wing, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Muhammad Rezaul Kabir, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs;
- Mr. Quazi Zia Uddin, BPM, DIG (Human Resource), Bangladesh Police;
- Mr. Md. Arifur Rahman, Director (UN-HR), United Nations Wing, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Goutam Kumar Dey, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh, Geneva;
- Mr. Md. Abdullah Al Forhad, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh, Geneva;
- Mr. Abdullah Bin Mahabub, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh, Geneva;
- Mr. Tapas Kanti Baul, Barrister-at-Law, General Secretary, Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Youth Unity Council;
- Barrister Arafat Hosen Khan, Consultant of Bangladesh's National Report of 4th UPR;
- Mr. Atique Mahmud, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.