



# General Assembly

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Agenda item 6  
**Universal periodic review**

## **Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review\***

### **Armenia**

#### **Addendum**

**Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review**

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\* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

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1. Armenia welcomes the recommendations made during its Third Universal Periodic Review on 23 January 2020.

2. In accordance with para 153 of A/HRC/44/10, the following recommendations for which a position was pending have been examined by the appropriate ministries and departments, and the following final positions have been generated:

- 153.1. Supported.**
- 153.2, 153.3. Supported,** included in the Migration Strategy of Armenia for 2017–2021.
- 153.4. Supported, under implementation.** The convention is undergoing the internal ratification procedure.
- 153.5, 153.6. Supported.** Armenia signed the Optional Protocol during the 74th session of UN GA on September 26, 2019 and will undertake all the necessary steps towards its ratification.
- 153.7, 153.8. Supported.** Armenia signed both Optional Protocols during the 74th session of UN GA on September 26, 2019 and will undertake all necessary steps towards its ratification.
- 153.9–153.11. Noted.** Pursuant to August 13, 2004 decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia on the issue of the compatibility of the obligations enshrined in the agreement on the Statute of the International Criminal Court signed in Rome on July 17, 1998 with the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, it was determined that the provision on supplementing the national criminal jurisdiction stipulated by part 10 of the Preamble and Article 1 of the Statute did not comply with the norms stipulated by Articles 91 and 92 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia. By the Constitutional amendments of 2015 the content of the respective articles of the Constitution was not amended, thus the issue of the incompatibility of the Statute with the Constitution remained unresolved.
- 153.12–153.23. Supported.** A comprehensive awareness-raising campaign was launched, and a package of amendments aimed at bringing the national legal framework in full compliance with the Convention will be presented to the Parliament.
- 153.24–153.26. Supported, already implemented.**
- 153.27. Noted.** The recommendation will be considered within the framework of further social reforms.
- 153.28. Supported.**
- 153.29–153.31. Supported.**
- 153.32. Supported.** There are various sectorial plans and programs to fight all forms of exploitation of persons, including human trafficking.
- 153.33. Supported.**
- 153.34. Supported.** An effective monitoring and reporting mechanism of the implementation of the National Strategy for Human Rights Protection (NSHRP) was introduced.
- 153.35. Supported.** The Government adopted the Strategy on Judicial reforms for 2019-2023 according to which a number of actions aiming at strengthening the rule of law and developing democratic institutions will be undertaken.
- 153.36. Supported.**

- 153.37. **Supported.** The Coordinating Council consists of representatives of public authorities and seven NGOs with clear procedures and criteria of participation.
- 153.38. **Supported.** A supplement was made to the Law On Human Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights in 2016, Article 10 of which prescribed the prohibition of sex selective abortions and Article 47.12 of the Code of Administrative Offences provided administrative liability for failure to carry out necessary measures before and after induced termination of pregnancy (abortion) by the doctor.
- 153.39, 153.40. **Supported.**
- 153.41. **Supported,** implemented within the framework of various action plans.
- 153.42. **Supported.** The issue of genocide prevention has been an important item of Armenia’s foreign policy agenda. Armenia initiated numerous resolutions on genocide prevention and all of them were unanimously adopted by HRC. Resolutions also highlighted the importance of the UPR in the context of prevention of genocide.
- 153.43. **Supported, under implementation.** According to the Human Rights Strategy for 2020-2022 criminal liability for hate speech in accordance with international standards will be established.
- 153.44. **Supported, under implementation.** The draft Law on Ensuring Equality stipulates the concept and types of discrimination, the legal mechanisms for the elimination of discrimination and protection against discrimination. The discrimination grounds are defined in accordance with Article 29 of the Constitution of Armenia.
- 153.45. **Supported, under implementation.** In order to ensure the principle of equality in practice, as well as to apply the provisions of the anti-discrimination law, the Government plans to take various actions, in particular, public awareness campaigns and other supporting activities.
- 153.46. **Supported.**
- 153.47. **Supported.** The five-year Government program stipulates policy based on improving the living standards, full and effective implementation of social rights, equal opportunities and job creation.
- 153.48. **Supported, under implementation.**
- 153.49. **Supported.**
- 153.50. **Supported.** The Government approved the Strategy on the gender policy implementation for 2019-2023. The draft Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was developed aimed at strengthening implementation of the rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities, their equal participation in public life.
- 153.51, 153.52. **Supported, see 153.43.**
- 153.53, 153.54. **Supported, under implementation.**
- 153.55. **Supported, under implementation, see 153.44.**
- 153.56. **Supported, under implementation.** In 2019 the draft Law on National Minorities was developed. It was set to clarify the criteria of belonging to national minorities, define their

- fundamental rights and freedoms, as well as the responsibilities of state and local self-government bodies in ensuring the implementation of these rights.
- 153.57, 153.58. Supported, under implementation, see 153.44.**
- 153.59. Supported, under implementation.**
- 153.60, 153.61. Supported, under implementation, see 153.44.**
- 153.62. Supported, under implementation.**
- 153.63. Supported, under implementation.** During the investigation of all cases of violence, including those against LGBTI persons, objectivity and completeness have been ensured.
- 153.64–153.68, 153.71, 153.72. Supported, under implementation, see 153.44.**
- 153.69. Supported, under implementation.**
- 153.70. Supported, under implementation, see 153.63.**
- 153.73. Supported.** The issue was already addressed in the Criminal Code.
- 153.74. Supported, under implementation, see 153.43.**
- 153.75–153.77. Supported.** The SDG nationalization process is currently underway.
- 153.78. Supported.** The Government Program provided key importance to ensuring inclusive economic growth.
- 153.79. Supported, see 153.47.**
- 153.80. Supported.**
- 153.81. Noted.**
- 153.82. Supported.** Gender-responsive and disability-inclusive adaptation and mitigation policies to climate change was developed.
- 153.83. Supported, already implemented.** According to Article 24 of the Constitution of Armenia no one can be sentenced to death or subjected to death penalty.
- 153.84–153.86. Supported, under implementation.** A number of provisions and measures aimed at eradicating torture and effectively investigating such acts were envisaged by the Strategy and Action Plan for judicial and legal reforms for 2019–2023, as well as by the Strategy and its Action Plan of penitentiary and probation domains for 2019–2023.
- The new article entitled “Prevention of Torture” supplemented the Law on Police. It established grounds for the video recording of entrances to the police building, as well as audio-video recording of the investigation rooms. The video recording systems have been already installed in 10 subdivisions of the Police. Starting from May 1, 2020 the audio-video recording of the investigation rooms will be fully applied.
- 153.87. Supported, under implementation.**
- 153.88. Supported, already implemented.**
- 153.89. Supported, under implementation.** It was foreseen by the paragraph 14 of the Human Rights Strategy for 2020–2022. The

draft amendments to the Criminal Code were developed and adopted by the first reading.

- 153.90, 153.91. Supported.**
- 153.92. Supported, already implemented.** By the relevant amendments to the Criminal Code (2015), the concept of torture was fully aligned with the provisions of the UN Convention against Torture.
- 153.93. Supported.** Targeted activities have been conducted to improve medical and sanitary conditions of detainees. The rights of arrestees and detainees are guaranteed by the relevant legal instruments.
- 153.94, 153.96, 153.97. Supported, under implementation.** The social and psychological rehabilitation services provided for victims of trafficking were longstanding.
- 153.95. Supported, under implementation.**
- 153.98, 153.100. Supported, under implementation.** Since 2015, the Law on Identification and Support of Persons Subjected to Trafficking in Persons and Exploitation has been implemented. This law regulates procedures for identifying and supporting persons subjected to trafficking or exploitation, including foreigners and stateless persons, providing them with relevant residence status and safe return. The assistance also includes a lump-sum monetary compensation provided by the State.
- 153.99. Supported.**
- 153.101–153.103. Supported, under implementation.** Activities aimed at fighting human trafficking in Armenia have been coordinated by the Inter-Ministerial Council on Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings and Exploitation headed by the Deputy Prime Minister. Daily activities of the Council have been carried out by the Council's Working Group, with the purpose of setting the policies and coordination of activities conducted by all stakeholders in the field. At policy level, since 2004 Armenia has adopted five National tri-annual Action Plans. Currently, the sixth National Action Plan for the period of 2020-2022 is being drafted.
- 153.104. Supported.** The criminal liability was envisaged for the involvement of another person into prostitution under Article 261 of the Criminal Code and for maintaining dens of prostitution or pimping by Article 262 of the Criminal Code.
- 153.105. Supported, under implementation, see 153.94, 153.98.**
- 153.106. Supported.**
- 153.107. Supported, under implementation, see 153.98.**
- 153.108. Supported.** There have been no restrictions whatsoever upon the activities of the civil society, human rights defenders and journalists.
- 153.109. Noted, under discussion.**
- 153.110. Supported.** The Human Rights Strategy for 2020-2022 foreseen to legally stipulate the requirement for disclosure of the real owners of the organizations operating in the field of mass media and public access of data about them.

- 153.111–153.113. **Supported.** The popular Velvet revolution of 2018 became an unprecedented example of the realisation of freedom of expression and assembly.
- 153.114–153.123. **Supported, under implementation.** The Strategy for Judicial and Legal reforms for 2019-2023 was adopted. The main objective of the Strategy is to ensure the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and to increase the efficiency of court activities.
- 153.124. **Supported, under implementation.** The Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2019-2022 and its Implementation Plan was adopted with the main directions of the fight against corruption.
- 153.125. **Supported, already implemented.**
- 153.126. **Supported, under implementation.**
- 153.127. **Supported, under implementation.** The effectiveness of the anti-corruption Strategy and sectorial programmes will be ensured by the introduction of monitoring and evaluation mechanism.
- 153.128. **Supported, under implementation.**
- 153.129. **Supported.** The amendments to the Electoral Code were foreseen.
- 153.130. **Supported, under implementation.**
- 153.131–153.135. **Supported, under implementation.** The Government Program for 2019-2023 envisages measures aimed at improving the living standards and social standing of citizens, by strengthening the capacities of vulnerable families, as well as reducing their long-term dependence on state support. The Government aims to eradicate extreme poverty by 2023 and significantly reduce poverty.
- 153.136. **Supported.**
- 153.137. **Supported, under implementation.** Mechanisms towards decentralization of HIV diagnostic services have been developed. The Government takes all necessary steps to make medication available in the different regions for HIV-positive individuals.
- 153.138. **Supported.** A comprehensive health care system and access to medical services in all regions of Armenia is one of the priorities of the Government.
- 153.139–153.146. **Supported.**
- 153.147. **Supported.** The “Healthy Lifestyle” course is taught in the 8th-11th classes of the secondary school. The course also addressed issues of reproductive health and sex education.
- 153.148. **Supported, under implementation.**
- 153.149. **Supported, under implementation.**
- 153.150. **Supported, under implementation.** The inclusive education system operates in schools.
- 153.151–153.155. **Supported, under implementation.** In 2014, the Law on General Education has been amended, thus transition to universal inclusive education by introducing a three-tier system of responding to the educational needs of the child was ensured. The new system will allow children in need to be educated

without separating the child from the family by ensuring child's comprehensive social development and involvement into a general educational process.

- 153.156, 153.157. Supported, under implementation.**
- 153.158. Supported, under implementation.** The Government of Armenia will continue to use ICT as an effective tool for the promotion of gender equality and inclusion of women in the economy as a whole.
- 153.159–153.164. Supported, under implementation.**
- 153.165. Supported, already implemented.**
- 153.166–153.168. Supported, under implementation.**
- 153.169, 153.170 Supported, under implementation.** Among other objectives and for increasing political representation of women in Armenia's public life, more effective quota for women representation was prescribed by the Electoral Code.
- 153.171–153.173. Supported, under implementation.**
- 153.174. Supported, under discussion.**
- 153.175. Supported, under implementation.** The activities aimed to prevent and combat domestic violence are ongoing. Last year the Government introduced several new mechanisms: state financial assistance for the victims of domestic violence, minimum standards for shelters and system for collecting the statistics. Council on Prevention of Domestic Violence was established with the involvement of the state and civil society organizations, which acted as an effective platform for discussion of relevant matters proposing solutions for the urgent issues and providing feedback on the reforms in the sector. From this year on, in cooperation with civil society, support for domestic violence victims was made available in all regions of Armenia. The state financing will be provided to two shelters run by NGOs for domestic violence victims.
- 153.176. Supported, see 153.12.**
- 153.177–153.181, 153.183–153.188, 153.191, 153.192.**
- Supported, under implementation.** The Human Rights Strategy for 2020-2022 envisaged criminalization of the domestic violence and violence against women.
- 153.182, 153.189, 153.190.**
- Supported, under implementation.**
- 153.193. Supported, under implementation.**
- 153.194, 153.196. Supported, under implementation.**
- 153.195. Supported, under implementation.** The budgetary allocations have been provided for the implementation of different programs for children facing difficult living conditions.
- 153.197. Supported.** The Inter-Agency Council for Juvenile Justice was elaborated, which should act as a national platform aimed at preventing child abuse.
- 153.198, 153.199. Supported.**
- 153.200. Supported.**

- 153.201. **Supported.** The mechanisms to monitor the situation of children in foster families were in place. Supervision of foster families has been carried out according to regulations set by the appropriate government decision.
- 153.202. **Supported.** The programs aimed at development of alternative care services for children in difficult life circumstances and for children with disabilities have been implemented annually and funded by the state budget.
- 153.203–153.205. **Supported.**
- 153.206. **Supported, see 153.24.**
- 153.207. **Supported.** According to the statistics the solitary confinement of juveniles has not been de facto applied. The relevant legislative amendments are under elaboration.
- 153.208, 153.209. **Supported, under implementation.**
- 153.210. **Supported.** According to the Government programme for 2017-2021 on Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities exact measures will be implemented aimed at ensuring accessibility of government buildings as well as cultural venues.
- 153.211. **Supported.**
- 153.212. **Supported, see 153.210.**
- 153.213, 153.214. **Supported.**
- 153.215–153.217, 153.219, 153.220. **Supported, under implementation.**
- 153.218. **Supported.**
- 153.221. **Supported.** The Law on protection of the rights of persons with disabilities was drafted.
- 153.222–153.228. **Supported.**
- 153.229–153.232. **Supported, see 153.50.**
- 153.233–153.235. **Supported, under implementation. See 153.56.**
- 153.236. **Supported, under implementation.**
- 153.237. **Noted.** There has never been a practice to keep migrant children as detainees.
- 153.238. **Supported, see 153.2, 153.3.**
- 153.239. **Supported, under implementation.** A draft law On Foreigners and Stateless Persons has been drafted. It is intended to clearly define the rights and responsibilities of stateless persons, as well as to regulate the application process for the status of a stateless person.
- 153.240–153.243. **Supported, see 153.108.**
- 153.244. **Supported, see 153.43.**
- 153.245, 153.246. **Supported, see 153.108.**
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