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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Seychelles

* 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 thirty-eighth session from 3 to 14 May 2021. The review of Seychelles was held at the 12th meeting, on 10 May 2021. The delegation of Seychelles was headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Sylvestre Radegonde. At its 17th meeting, held on 14 May 2021, the Working Group adopted the report on Seychelles.
2. On 12 January 2021, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Seychelles: Bulgaria, Cuba and Nepal.
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 Seychelles:
 - (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 Canada, Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Seychelles 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 Seychelles stated that the universal periodic review was an important exercise that provided a platform for countries to exchange best practices, share ideas and collaborate towards the full realization of human rights for all persons. As a small island nation, Seychelles faced significant challenges, which had worsened because of the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, but the people of Seychelles were resilient and resourceful, with the capacity to surmount them.
6. The new Government, which had taken office in October 2020, was committed to continuing to foster human rights, social justice, equality and non-discrimination among all Seychellois. The Seychellois Charter of Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms provided for the protection and promotion of human rights of all persons within the territory of Seychelles. In addition, article 27 of the Constitution provided for the equal protection of all persons, regardless of gender, race, nationality, age, skin colour, sexual orientation or political beliefs.
7. Seychelles considered that to empower society it was crucial to empower women and girls. While it acknowledged the existence of gender stereotypes, it had ensured that they had not become a structural barrier within the educational system. As a result, over the past five years, girls had enrolled in education programmes traditionally dominated by males, thereby addressing the underrepresentation of females in currently male-dominated careers. In 2016, Seychelles had launched its National Gender Policy. The Policy had 11 thematic areas and a set of goals and objectives for the achievement of gender equality and gender mainstreaming.
8. In 2020, Seychelles had enacted the Children (Amendment) Act, which further ensured the protection of children in the country through the abolition of corporal punishment

¹ A/HRC/WG.6/38/SYC/1.

² A/HRC/WG.6/38/SYC/2.

³ A/HRC/WG.6/38/SYC/3.

in all settings, including at educational institutions. Seychelles had also established a Child Law Reform Committee to review the existing legal framework and make necessary recommendations for reform.

9. Seychelles was committed to reducing school dropout and continued to make resources available to this end. The delegation acknowledged the need to create incentives to enhance human resources in the education sector, and highlighted the master's programme in teaching for returning graduates, developed by the University of Seychelles, which would contribute to reducing the country's dependency on foreign-recruited teaching staff. To stop the spread of COVID-19, the Ministry of Education had introduced learning via online platforms. The Ministry had also slowly resumed face-to-face learning on a scheduled basis to avoid overcrowding at schools.

10. The health sector was of great importance for Seychelles and the Government had invested considerable resources in it, employing an adequate number of qualified health professionals. In 2019, the Ministry of Health had also implemented several regulatory measures to control sugar content in food products, to limit the advertising and sale of alcohol and cigarettes and to promote healthier lifestyles. Throughout the pandemic, the Ministry had ensured continued access to health services and had established various health stations to cater specifically for patients with COVID-19-related symptoms.

11. Since the beginning of its mandate, the new Government had set as one of its priorities the vaccination of the population and the reopening of the country's borders to relaunch the tourism industry. In January 2021, Seychelles had launched an aggressive vaccination campaign that had included expatriates and non-Seychellois workers in the country, as well as all non-Seychellois mariners on the foreign fishing vessels in the country's waters and port.

12. Seychelles had made noteworthy improvements to the penitentiary system to enhance the welfare of prisoners. Male and female prisoners at Montagne Posée Prison were housed in separate residential blocks. Additionally, high-risk and low-risk prisoners were kept separate from each other and juveniles were housed in a separate unit. Montagne Posée Prison had a fully functional medical facility, and prisoners requiring medical assistance not available at the prison were given a special referral for care outside the prison. The delegation also noted that Project Phoenix, which allowed prisoners to work outside of prison, continued to be a success, and that over 50 per cent of the inmates were actively engaged in it with the collaboration of different private companies.

13. One of the country's main achievements since the last review was the setting up of the Seychelles Human Rights Commission. The Government acknowledged that the Commission required significant support for the full realization of its mandate, and was committed to providing the necessary resources to have a national human rights institution that was fully compliant with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).

14. Seychelles, along with other small island States, was exposed to the effects of climate change, and had undertaken several initiatives in this regard. In 2019, the Government had reviewed the Environment Protection (Ozone) Regulations of 2010 and had worked on numerous pieces of legislation, such as banning, or imposing increased taxes on, products that harmed the environment. Seychelles was developing an ambitious climate action plan and urged the international community to adopt sustainable measures for the preservation of the planet.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

15. During the interactive dialogue, 83 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

16. Finland expressed deep appreciation for the engagement of Seychelles in the universal periodic review process.

17. France welcomed the exemplary manner in which Seychelles had held the October 2020 elections, and the significant progress that the country had made in the area of human rights.

18. Georgia acknowledged the progress made by Seychelles in combating drug abuse among children. It encouraged Seychelles to continue taking steps to increase access to justice by women and girls and combat trafficking in persons.
19. Germany commended Seychelles for ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and for decriminalizing same-sex consensual sexual relations. It welcomed the enactment of the Access to Information Act and the Anti-Corruption (Amendment) Act.
20. Guyana welcomed the initiatives undertaken by Seychelles to safeguard the rights of children, such as the appointment of a Child Law Reform Committee and the amendment of the Education Act to ensure the integration of children with disabilities in the education system.
21. Haiti commended the efforts made by Seychelles on prison reform, combating human trafficking and access to justice.
22. Iceland welcomed the decriminalization by Seychelles of consensual same-sex sexual activity and encouraged further consideration of the rights of LGBTI+ individuals.
23. India appreciated the progress made by Seychelles in implementing previous universal periodic review recommendations, and welcomed the adoption of the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Act 2020 and the Domestic Violence Act 2020.
24. Indonesia commended the progress made since the last review. It noted, in particular, the establishment of the Seychelles Human Rights Commission and encouraged Seychelles to ensure that the Commission exercised its mandate in full compliance with the Paris Principles.
25. Iraq welcomed the positive steps taken by Seychelles to combat sexual violence and to increase women's participation in decision-making positions.
26. Ireland welcomed the establishment by Seychelles of the Truth, Reconciliation and National Unity Commission. It recognized the progress made in combating trafficking in persons, but expressed concern that a national action plan to address human trafficking had not been developed.
27. Israel commended Seychelles for adopting the Seychelles Human Rights Commission Act 2018 and the National Gender Action Plan 2019–2023, and for replacing the Family Violence Act with the new Domestic Violence Act 2020.
28. Italy welcomed the commitment by Seychelles to strengthen the prevention of gender-based violence, including through the Domestic Violence Act 2020, the decriminalization of same-sex relations and the prohibition of all corporal punishment of children.
29. Japan appreciated the positive steps taken by Seychelles to combat enforced disappearances, including the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
30. Kenya welcomed the efforts made by Seychelles to promote and protect human rights, including the strengthening of the special education programme for children with disabilities and the enactment in 2020 of the Domestic Violence Act.
31. Libya appreciated the steps taken by Seychelles to strengthen the protection of human rights, especially through the enactment in 2018 of the Seychelles Human Rights Commission Act.
32. Luxembourg congratulated Seychelles for adopting the National Gender Action Plan 2019–2023 and establishing a national team to coordinate gender equality activities.
33. Malawi thanked Seychelles for its comprehensive presentation.
34. Malaysia commended Seychelles for its efforts to advance human rights and the welfare of its people, for the enactment of the Domestic Violence Act and for the support provided to employees throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

35. Maldives welcomed the progress made by Seychelles to advance human rights and commended its efforts to increase awareness and mitigate the effects of climate change.
36. Mali praised the cooperation of Seychelles with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, its progress in protecting human rights, and the adoption of a law on mental health care.
37. The Marshall Islands welcomed the adoption by Seychelles of new policies related to child rights, its efforts to fight discrimination against persons with disabilities, and its adoption of regulations to mitigate the effects of climate change.
38. Mauritania welcomed the progress by Seychelles in promoting and protecting human rights, particularly with regard to access to employment for persons with disabilities and the fight against the economic exploitation of children.
39. Mauritius noted the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy of Seychelles, and commended the country's efforts to promote the education of children with disabilities and to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
40. Mexico welcomed the decriminalization by Seychelles of consensual same-sex relations, as well as the adoption of the Seychelles Human Rights Commission Act, the Children (Amendment) Act and the Domestic Violence Act.
41. Montenegro recognized the efforts of Seychelles to strengthen its human rights frameworks and to combat gender-based violence. Montenegro urged Seychelles to increase efforts in these two areas, especially by investing additional resources.
42. Morocco commended the efforts of Seychelles to advance human rights, especially its adoption of legislation on gender equality and on equal opportunities in education and training, and its special education programme for children with disabilities.
43. Mozambique praised Seychelles for the progress it had made on implementing the recommendations from the second cycle of the universal periodic review.
44. Nepal welcomed the adoption of the Seychelles Human Rights Commission Act and the efforts to reform the judiciary. It also praised the prohibition of corporal punishment of children, the integration of children with disabilities, and the fight against human trafficking.
45. The Netherlands commended Seychelles on the decriminalization of consensual same-sex relations and on the enactment of the Access to Information Act. It expressed concern about gender-based violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.
46. The Niger noted positively the progress of Seychelles in protecting human rights, particularly the reforms undertaken to address trafficking in persons, environmental protection, food security and disaster management.
47. Nigeria commended Seychelles for its efforts in the areas of health and education, and for addressing the negative effects of climate change, combating human trafficking and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities.
48. Pakistan appreciated the efforts of Seychelles to advance respect for human rights through legislative and administrative measures, such as the establishment of a national human rights institution and the addressing of environmental challenges.
49. The Philippines noted the enactment of the National Council of the Elderly Act 2018 and the Domestic Violence Act 2020, and welcomed the legislative and policy reforms to protect children, including from sexual abuse and exploitation.
50. Portugal welcomed the decriminalization by Seychelles of consensual same-sex relations between adults, and the efforts to address gender-based violence, including through the enactment of the Domestic Violence Act.
51. Rwanda welcomed the enactment of the Domestic Violence Act and the Seychelles Human Rights Commission Act. It noted the launch of the national gender policy to ensure gender mainstreaming.

52. Serbia commended Seychelles on the measures taken to implement recommendations from the previous review, particularly in relation to improvement of the judicial system.
53. Sierra Leone congratulated Seychelles for its many democratic achievements, including a peaceful transfer of power, the creation of a national human rights commission, and the enactment of several new pieces of legislation to protect the rights of women and children.
54. Slovenia remained concerned that Seychelles had not maintained its commitment on the continuity of a European Union-funded shelter for battered women through the construction of a permanent shelter.
55. South Africa commended Seychelles for repealing section 151 of the Penal Code and for enacting the Seychelles Human Rights Commission Act.
56. South Sudan congratulated Seychelles for its efforts to improve human rights in the country.
57. Spain congratulated Seychelles for the adoption of the Seychelles Human Rights Commission Act and the establishment of the national human rights commission. It welcomed the decriminalization of consensual same-sex sexual relations between adults.
58. Sri Lanka commended Seychelles for its progress since the previous review. It welcomed the measures taken to guarantee the rights of the child and noted the policies and programmes to promote equal pay, non-discrimination against migrant workers, and COVID-19-related employment transition.
59. The Sudan welcomed the efforts of Seychelles to promote human rights, and its accession to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
60. Timor-Leste noted the establishment of the Seychelles Human Rights Commission and welcomed the steps taken by Seychelles to increase access to justice by women and girls and to combat trafficking in persons.
61. Togo commended Seychelles for joining several international instruments and for the measures taken to promote and protect the rights of vulnerable people, including women, children and persons with disabilities.
62. Trinidad and Tobago noted the enactment by Seychelles of new laws promoting the advancement of human rights and commended the work of the judiciary in clearing the backlog of cases. It also noted the promotion by Seychelles of ambitious climate action.
63. Tunisia praised the country's establishment of a national human rights commission, as well as its efforts to reform the judiciary, to fight human trafficking and money laundering and to ensure the protection of children.
64. Turkey welcomed the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman and the work carried out by the National Coordinating Committee on Trafficking in Persons. It also commended the work done by the Truth, Reconciliation and National Unity Commission.
65. Ukraine noted the willingness of Seychelles to tackle human rights challenges by adopting new legislation and amending the existing policies. It also welcomed the willingness of Seychelles to protect the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.
66. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland commended Seychelles for having been an early signatory to the Media Freedom Coalition and encouraged it to ensure systematic training for all first responders to incidents of modern slavery.
67. The United States of America commended Seychelles on its October 2020 election and the peaceful and smooth transfer of power.
68. Uruguay welcomed the ratification by Seychelles of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and called on the international community to continue to support the country's efforts to promote human rights.
69. In reply to the advance questions received, Seychelles provided information about the steps taken to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The

delegation recognized that there was a need for a shift in the attitude of society towards the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community, and noted that the Cabinet had approved the creation of a Law Reform Commission whose work would include addressing matters regarding sexual orientation and gender identity, including the issue of same-sex marriages.

70. The delegation stated that Seychelles continued to make great efforts in the fight against human trafficking. The National Coordinating Committee on Trafficking in Persons was being restructured to increase its efficiency and a hotline had been set up to report possible cases of trafficking. The delegation also noted the adoption in 2019 of the National Labour Migration Policy, and stated that training on human trafficking and child exploitation had been provided to the law enforcement officers of the Employment Department. The Employment Department conducted unannounced labour inspections in all sectors, including the fishing, tourism and construction industries, where migrant workers were concentrated. A new national action plan on trafficking in persons for 2021–2023 was being drafted and was expected to be finalized by July or August of 2021.

71. The Seychelles Media Commission Act 2010 ensured the independence of the Seychelles Media Commission, making provision for the transparent appointment of its board and promoting plurality of the media. The Commission would conduct a participatory process to identify legislative gaps and help protect media practitioners. The delegation further noted that the number of media outlets had increased since the last review.

72. In 2020, Seychelles had adopted specific legislation on domestic violence in order to criminalize it, protect victims and ensure training of service providers. Seychelles was aware that combating domestic violence required a shift in societal attitudes and stressed that law enforcement authorities, service providers and the judiciary remained determined to tackle this problem. Additionally, Seychelles had formulated the draft National Gender Action Plan 2019–2023, which was currently being reviewed to take into account the COVID-19 context.

73. Finally, the delegation noted that the practice of abortion in Seychelles was based on specific medical criteria and was carried out under the authorization of the Ministry of Health. It also noted that the planned Law Reform Commission might address this matter.

74. Vanuatu noted that Seychelles had introduced many international human rights principles in its legislative framework. It encouraged Seychelles to undertake all efforts to protect human rights, in particular the rights of children, women and persons with disabilities.

75. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the legislative progress to provide all students with equal educational opportunities and to protect the rights of children and women through the prohibition of corporal punishment and domestic violence.

76. Viet Nam welcomed the efforts of Seychelles to implement the recommendations accepted under the second cycle of the universal periodic review. It noted the measures taken to promote and protect the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.

77. Zambia thanked the delegation of Seychelles for its comprehensive national report and the update provided.

78. Zimbabwe highlighted the enactment by Seychelles of the Access to Information Act, the Seychelles Human Rights Commission Act, the Children (Amendment) Act and the Domestic Violence Act.

79. Angola commended Seychelles for its engagement against climate change, its recent initiatives to reform the judiciary and modernize the prison system, and its measures to fight human trafficking.

80. Argentina congratulated Seychelles on enacting the law establishing the Seychelles Human Rights Commission, in 2018.

81. Australia commended Seychelles on its establishment of an independent human rights commission and of the Truth, Reconciliation and National Unity Commission, and on the passage in 2020 of the Domestic Violence Act.

82. Azerbaijan commended Seychelles on the measures taken for the protection and promotion of human rights since the previous review, including the establishment of the Seychelles Human Rights Commission.
83. The Bahamas congratulated Seychelles on its efforts to combat corruption, money laundering, terrorism financing, domestic violence, and trafficking. The Bahamas stood in solidarity with the efforts of Seychelles on environmental protection and climate action.
84. Barbados commended Seychelles for promoting and protecting human rights, particularly on the progress made in the review, reform and enhancement of existing legislation and in the enactment of new laws.
85. Botswana welcomed the adoption by Seychelles of the Anti-Corruption (Amendment) Act, the Access to Information Act and the Civil Code of Seychelles Act. It welcomed the country's efforts in promoting ambitious climate action.
86. Brazil commended Seychelles on the peaceful and orderly political transition that took place after the elections in 2020, and noted important human rights developments, such as the decriminalization of same-sex relations between consenting adults.
87. Bulgaria appreciated the progress made by Seychelles in enhancing its legislative, institutional and policy framework for the protection of human rights. It encouraged Seychelles to remain committed to democracy and good governance in the follow-up to the 2020 elections.
88. Burkina Faso acknowledged the progress made by Seychelles in implementing the recommendations accepted in the last review, but remained concerned about many ongoing challenges faced by the country in promoting and protecting human rights.
89. Burundi congratulated Seychelles for holding free, fair and democratic presidential and legislative elections in October 2020. It also commended the country's efforts to combat human trafficking, and the creation of the Seychelles Human Rights Commission.
90. Canada applauded the decriminalization by Seychelles of same-sex sexual relations. It commended the establishment of the Seychelles Human Rights Commission and encouraged an expansion of its mandate to include issues of women's empowerment and gender equality.
91. In reply to some issues raised by delegations, Seychelles stated that the aim of the Truth, Reconciliation and National Unity Commission was to investigate complaints of alleged human rights violations committed in relation to the 1977 coup d'état. The Commission could recommend compensation and reparations for victims and determine whether to grant amnesty to perpetrators. The aim was to bring closure to victims and perpetrators and to unite the people of Seychelles around a common agenda going forward.
92. Seychelles recognized the importance of ensuring that persons with disabilities were valued within society, including in the workplace. Repeal of the National Council for Disabled Persons Act 1994 was being discussed, to enact a new law that would meet the contemporary needs of persons with disabilities in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Seychelles recognized the need to adopt a comprehensive policy on disability through active consultation with relevant organizations and persons with disabilities.
93. Regarding the age of criminal responsibility, the delegation noted that there was a proposal to amend the existing law so that a child under 10 years old could not be arrested or charged with a crime. The delegation further noted that no child under the age of 14 years could be sentenced to imprisonment.
94. Chile welcomed the ratification by Seychelles of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act and the Seychelles Human Rights Commission Act.
95. China welcomed the efforts of Seychelles to promote sustainable economic and social development, reduce poverty, develop education and health, and safeguard the rights of vulnerable groups.

96. Côte d'Ivoire congratulated Seychelles for the progress made since its second universal periodic review, and encouraged the Government to continue its efforts in the field of human rights.
97. Cuba thanked the delegation of Seychelles for the presentation of its national report and wished Seychelles successful implementation of accepted recommendations.
98. The Democratic Republic of the Congo commended Seychelles for amending the Children Act of 1982, which now contained a provision prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment of children.
99. Denmark commended Seychelles for decriminalizing same-sex relations and for adopting the Domestic Violence Act. However, it remained concerned by continued acts of violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.
100. Djibouti appreciated the measures taken by Seychelles to implement the recommendations accepted during its last universal periodic review, which had resulted in the strengthening of its normative and institutional framework.
101. The Dominican Republic valued the strengthening by Seychelles of its normative and institutional frameworks aimed at promoting and protecting human rights.
102. Egypt commended Seychelles on the establishment of its national human rights commission, its legislative reforms for the protection of children, and its efforts to fight corruption and money laundering.
103. Eswatini noted the progress made by Seychelles in implementing the recommendations of the second cycle of the universal periodic review.
104. Ethiopia welcomed the establishment by Seychelles of the human rights commission. It also commended the adoption of the National Labour Migration Policy and the increase in the number of children in compulsory education.
105. Fiji welcomed the delegation of Seychelles and commended it on the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act.
106. Senegal noted that, despite its environmental vulnerability, Seychelles had continued with efforts to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities were taken into account in disaster risk reduction and climate change plans and adaptation measures.
107. In its concluding remarks, Seychelles noted that the marriage of women below the age of 18 years would be prohibited with the entry into force of the Civil Code of 2021. It also stressed that the Government had a zero-tolerance approach on the issue of drugs, reflected in the increase in searches and arrests of drug traffickers. It recognized that drug abuse was a cross-cutting issue that required coordination at all levels, including health care, education, the police, the judiciary and others.
108. Seychelles was continuing in its efforts to eliminate all kinds of abuse of children and in 2015 had established the Police Child Protection Team to handle investigations into reported cases of child abuse, further strengthening the country's child protection structure.
109. Seychelles was proud of its achievements and aware of the challenges it faced. It underlined that climate change had an evident impact on human rights, not only in small island developing States but all over the world, and called upon the international community to keep pushing this agenda further at all forums.
110. Seychelles extended its gratitude to the universal periodic review secretariat and to all the delegations that participated in its review. It considered that frank and open dialogue was crucial to further the promotion and protection of human rights. Seychelles was committed to studying the recommendations received and would communicate its decisions to all Member States in due course.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

111. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Seychelles and enjoy the support of Seychelles:

- 111.1 Continue efforts to ratify international instruments (Morocco);
- 111.2 Take all necessary measures to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Maldives);
- 111.3 Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Niger);
- 111.4 Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);
- 111.5 Ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Bahamas);
- 111.6 Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Bahamas);
- 111.7 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (France);
- 111.8 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Mauritius);
- 111.9 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Rwanda);
- 111.10 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Turkey);
- 111.11 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Burundi);
- 111.12 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 111.13 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark);
- 111.14 Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Spain);
- 111.15 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Slovenia);
- 111.16 Speed up the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (South Sudan);
- 111.17 Take steps to submit its overdue reports to the relevant treaty bodies (Sierra Leone);
- 111.18 Continue efforts to submit its periodic reports to the treaty bodies in the allotted time frames (Iraq);
- 111.19 Continue its cooperation with treaty bodies and special procedures of the United Nations (Azerbaijan);
- 111.20 Scale up measures to curb challenges associated with the submission of reports to the human rights treaty bodies (Ethiopia);
- 111.21 Continue to strengthen its reporting commitments to international treaties and international human rights mechanisms (Bahamas);

- 111.22 **Request technical support from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to move ahead with ratification of the main international human rights instruments to which the country is not yet a party, as well as to ensure the incorporation into domestic legislation of its obligations under ratified human rights treaties (Uruguay);**
- 111.23 **Continue its work towards domesticating provisions of the international human rights treaties to which it is a party (Zimbabwe);**
- 111.24 **Scale up efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights, especially the rights of persons in vulnerable situations (Nigeria);**
- 111.25 **Speed up the process of establishing a national mechanism of reporting and follow-up to increase the ability to submit the overdue reports under international treaties (Sudan);**
- 111.26 **Ensure the independence of the Seychelles Human Rights Commission, in compliance with the Paris Principles, and allocate adequate human, technical and financial resources to it (Finland);**
- 111.27 **Ensure that the actions of the National Commission of Human Rights are in accordance with the Paris Principles (Iraq);**
- 111.28 **Allocate adequate resources, human, technical and financial, to the Seychelles Human Rights Commission, and ensure its independence and compliance with the Paris Principles (Ireland);**
- 111.29 **Ensure the independence of the National Human Rights Commission, and provide it with the necessary resources, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Mexico);**
- 111.30 **Take necessary measures to ensure the independence of the Seychelles Human Rights Commission, and allocate adequate human, technical and financial resources to it (Mozambique);**
- 111.31 **Continue taking measures towards further strengthening of the national human rights commission (Pakistan);**
- 111.32 **Take steps to ensure the National Human Rights Commission is adequately financed and resourced (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 111.33 **Ensure the independence of the Seychelles Human Rights Commission, in compliance with the Paris Principles, and allocate adequate human, technical and financial resources to it (Zambia);**
- 111.34 **Guarantee the independence of the Seychelles Commission on Human Rights, in accordance with the Paris Principles, and allocate sufficient human, technical and financial resources to it (Burkina Faso);**
- 111.35 **Ensure the independence of the Seychelles Commission on Human Rights, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Chile);**
- 111.36 **Further strengthen the National Human Rights Commission to work in full compliance with the Paris Principles (India);**
- 111.37 **Address the numerous complaints concerning the police, including the reports of police officers allegedly not following legal procedures in the lawful arrests and detentions (Malawi);**
- 111.38 **Continue efforts to reform the penitentiary system (Morocco);**
- 111.39 **Continue measures aimed at reforming the penitentiary system and improving the conditions of inmates (Georgia);**
- 111.40 **Ensure that every person detained enjoys procedural safeguards from the outset, including the right to be informed immediately about the reasons for the detention and the right to contact a person of their choice (Portugal);**

- 111.41 Continue to take steps to reform the judiciary and strengthen its independence (Libya);
- 111.42 Continue with its efforts to reform the judiciary, including by providing members of the judiciary with relevant capacity-building (Timor-Leste);
- 111.43 Increase access to justice for women and girls, and protection services for victims of domestic violence (Philippines);
- 111.44 Guarantee effective access to justice for persons with disabilities (Spain);
- 111.45 Strengthen measures for the fight against corruption, money laundering and human trafficking (Nigeria);
- 111.46 Put in place transparent procedures for the selection of members of the Media Commission (Netherlands);
- 111.47 Actively promote the plurality of the media and ensure their impartial participation in awareness and sensitization campaigns (Netherlands);
- 111.48 Deepen measures to promote racial and religious understanding, tolerance and diversity (Barbados);
- 111.49 Adopt measures to address trafficking in persons, including children, especially trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation (Italy);
- 111.50 Continue measures to prevent trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation (Nepal);
- 111.51 Continue taking safeguards against trafficking in persons, including by implementing the National Labour Migration Policy (Sri Lanka);
- 111.52 Strengthen mechanisms to investigate cases of trafficking in persons and prosecute the perpetrators of such crimes (Togo);
- 111.53 Continue efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including in children and women (Tunisia);
- 111.54 Continue its efforts to strengthen legislative, policy and institutional measures in order to prevent, combat and punish human trafficking (Viet Nam);
- 111.55 Intensify its measures for combating trafficking in human beings (Azerbaijan);
- 111.56 Pursue the efforts undertaken to combat trafficking in human beings, particularly the sexual exploitation of children and women, by stepping up the fight against traffickers (Djibouti);
- 111.57 Continue to implement the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Act, with emphasis on the importance of promptly investigating and prosecuting cases of child trafficking (Fiji);
- 111.58 Adopt an updated national action plan to address trafficking in persons, especially trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation; and establish comprehensive shelters or care facilities available for victims of trafficking in persons and provide sufficient resources for victim assistance (Ukraine);
- 111.59 Vigorously investigate and prosecute human trafficking crimes, sentence convicted traffickers to adequate penalties, proactively identify trafficking victims and refer them to appropriate care, and finalize, adopt, and implement a national action plan to combat all forms of trafficking (United States of America);
- 111.60 Adopt a national action plan to tackle trafficking in persons, particularly trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation; create shelters or comprehensive care centres for victims of human trafficking; and provide sufficient resources for assistance to victims (Argentina);

- 111.61 **Adopt a national action plan to combat human trafficking, in particular trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation (Burkina Faso);**
- 111.62 **Adopt a national plan to combat human trafficking, in particular against all forms of sexual exploitation (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 111.63 **Pursue awareness campaigns and adopt a comprehensive national plan to combat human trafficking (Egypt);**
- 111.64 **Adopt a national action plan to combat trafficking in persons, particularly trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation (Senegal);**
- 111.65 **Seek international support and assistance in mitigating the COVID pandemic and related socioeconomic challenges and achieving progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (Pakistan);**
- 111.66 **Continue the vaccination campaigns aimed at protecting the health of its population, through national plans implemented by the Ministry of Health to respond to, prevent and reduce disease transmission (Cuba);**
- 111.67 **Adopt a national policy on sexual and reproductive health (Luxembourg);**
- 111.68 **Continue providing sexual and reproductive health services (Malaysia);**
- 111.69 **Provide access to quality sexual and reproductive health services, including comprehensive sexual education as part of the school curriculum and full and equal access to modern forms of contraceptives (Denmark);**
- 111.70 **Continue improving accessibility to quality health services for persons with disabilities (Spain);**
- 111.71 **Continue efforts aimed at improving the accessibility to health-care services for persons with disabilities (Georgia);**
- 111.72 **Strengthen policies on the prevention of drug use, including by means of local awareness-raising campaigns and international cooperation against drug trafficking, and further improve the availability of health treatment for drug addiction (Brazil);**
- 111.73 **Address stereotypical attitudes about the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society in order to fully organize and achieve gender equality in the public and private spheres (Israel);**
- 111.74 **Continue efforts to eliminate discrimination against women and children (Egypt);**
- 111.75 **Continue implementing the National Gender Policy to break gender barriers and allow citizens to reach their full potential (Kenya);**
- 111.76 **Advance women's protection and continue to promote gender parity in appointed and elected positions (Mozambique);**
- 111.77 **Continue the efforts to develop measures and procedures aimed at prohibiting discrimination against women within the framework of the National Gender Plan for the period 2019–2023 (Tunisia);**
- 111.78 **Step up efforts to implement the national gender plan of action for the period 2019–2023, including through providing technical and financial resources to its Secretariat for the fulfilment of its mandate (Botswana);**
- 111.79 **Continue consolidating the national mechanisms that allow greater participation and equality of women, as well as the protection and promotion of the rights and well-being of women and girls (Dominican Republic);**
- 111.80 **Further strengthen legislative and policy measures for combating discriminatory practices against women and girls including gender-based violence (India);**

- 111.81 Continue improving the rights of women and girls, ensuring access to social benefits, health care and education (Eswatini);
- 111.82 Encourage efforts to uproot gender stereotypes on women and increase their representation in the public and private sphere (Ethiopia);
- 111.83 Further mainstream a gender perspective into its national policies and programmes by providing wider spheres for women's participation and ensuring gender parity in the development and implementation of those policies and programmes (Indonesia);
- 111.84 Continue the efforts to prevent gender-based violence and to assist the victims (Italy);
- 111.85 Strengthen efforts to combat gender-based violence, including by raising public awareness (Japan);
- 111.86 Adopt a new national action plan to combat gender-based violence (Luxembourg);
- 111.87 Take necessary measures to ensure the operationalization of the Domestic Violence Act, 2020 (Malawi);
- 111.88 Continue taking concrete measures to address gender-based violence, and allocate adequate resources to provide necessary support and reparation for victims (Malaysia);
- 111.89 Continue efforts to combat gender-based violence, in particular by establishing mechanisms for the prevention of violence and for the care and protection of victims and their families (France);
- 111.90 Update the strategy on gender-based violence and adopt a new adequately funded national action plan on gender-based violence, including domestic violence (Maldives);
- 111.91 Operationalize the Domestic Violence Act and establish a mechanism to offer increased support to victims of domestic violence (Marshall Islands);
- 111.92 Pursue the efforts undertaken against violence, particularly domestic violence, as well as against discrimination against women (Morocco);
- 111.93 Continue to strengthen measures to address and prevent gender-based violence and discrimination (Philippines);
- 111.94 Update the strategy on gender violence and approve a new national action plan with adequate funding (Spain);
- 111.95 Continue efforts to address the manifestations of violence and sexual exploitation of women (Tunisia);
- 111.96 Create an effective mechanism to prevent gender-based violence (Ukraine);
- 111.97 Enforce laws criminalizing gender-based violence, including domestic abuse, and train police in appropriately handling sexual assault cases (United States of America);
- 111.98 Prioritize the implementation of the new law on domestic violence (Uruguay);
- 111.99 Continue efforts to address domestic violence by fully enforcing laws to address violence against women and increasing coordination with NGOs and private sector institutions offering support to survivors of domestic violence (Australia);
- 111.100 Update and adopt a new strategy on gender-based violence that provides specialized training, support to victims and survivors and ensures that perpetrators are prosecuted and adequately punished (Iceland);

111.101 Fully implement, enforce and resource the Domestic Violence Act (2020), ensuring the public is aware of its provisions and perpetrators of domestic violence are held accountable (Canada);

111.102 Continue efforts to combat sexual and domestic violence (Egypt);

111.103 Continue to implement and operationalize the Domestic Violence Act, ensuring that support services for survivors are adequately resourced to carry out their functions (Fiji);

111.104 Continue efforts to promote and protect children's rights (Georgia);

111.105 Redouble efforts in reviewing the Penal Code to safeguard young girls below the age of 18 years from sexual offences (Kenya);

111.106 Take the necessary measures to ensure that the Child Law Reform Committee finalizes its work (France);

111.107 Continue with the efforts to combat violence against all groups of children in vulnerable situations (Mozambique);

111.108 Take steps to improve institutional structures and mechanisms to protect children from sexual abuse and economic exploitation (Sierra Leone);

111.109 Strengthen the institutional structures and mechanisms to protect children from economic exploitation, including the worst forms of child labour (Ukraine);

111.110 Expand the sensitization programme on the prevention and combating of child abuse to all corners of the country (Zimbabwe);

111.111 Further protect the rights of children by amending laws to protect children from sexual exploitation (Australia);

111.112 Strengthen legislative, policy and institutional measures to prevent sexual crimes against children by supporting thorough investigations of cases, ensuring perpetrators are held accountable, and providing victims with access to appropriate services (Canada);

111.113 Reinforce law enforcement mechanisms to ensure migrants are not subjected to mistreatment or are not victims of trafficking and that migrants' rights violators are held accountable (Canada).

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

112.1 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Finland);

112.2 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Ukraine);

112.3 Consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Italy);

112.4 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications

procedure, as well as the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Chile);

112.5 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and establish an independent mechanism in charge of monitoring all places of detention and investigating complaints regarding prison conditions and ill-treatment (Portugal);**

112.6 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Italy);**

112.7 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**

112.8 **Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Rwanda);**

112.9 **Adopt an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

112.10 **Ratify the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

112.11 **Ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled (Mali);**

112.12 **Finalize accession to the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled (Democratic Republic of the Congo);**

112.13 **Fully incorporate the provisions of international human rights instruments into national law so that they are directly applicable (Luxembourg);**

112.14 **Fully incorporate the provisions of international human rights treaties into its national legislation to ensure direct applicability (Zambia);**

112.15 **Fulfil human rights obligations based on the international human rights instruments to which it is a party and ensure their implementation through laws and programmes that will strengthen domestic understanding and advance respect for human rights (Indonesia);**

112.16 **Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law and ensure adequate and effective protection against discrimination on any ground (Montenegro);**

112.17 **Adopt and implement a comprehensive strategy addressing all forms of discrimination (Côte d'Ivoire);**

112.18 **Redouble its commitment to the principle of non-discrimination, including by encouraging the elimination of gender-discriminatory provisions from the nationality law (Uruguay);**

112.19 **Adopt and implement a comprehensive strategy addressing all forms of discrimination, including multiple forms of discrimination, against all groups in vulnerable situations, particularly women and children (Bulgaria);**

112.20 **Conduct consultations on legislation which can be amended to better guarantee the constitutional rights of all its citizens regardless of sexual orientation (Israel);**

112.21 **Continue efforts to combat violence and discrimination against LGBTI people and take measures to ensure their inclusion (France);**

112.22 **Adopt legislation that prohibits discrimination and violence based on gender, sexual orientation and gender identity (Mexico);**

- 112.23 **Bring its legislation into conformity with its commitment to non-discrimination and equality by adopting comprehensive legislation that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, as previously recommended (Netherlands);**
- 112.24 **Introduce the necessary amendments to the legislation and apply a policy aimed at eliminating persistent social discrimination against lesbian, bisexual and transgender women, as well as acts of violence against them (Spain);**
- 112.25 **Promote non-discriminatory access to social housing for LGBTI people (Spain);**
- 112.26 **Promote measures to eliminate any form of discrimination which may still persist against lesbian, bisexual and transgender women (Argentina);**
- 112.27 **Enact laws prohibiting hate crimes committed against persons on the basis of sexuality, gender, religion and ethnicity (Australia);**
- 112.28 **Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that addresses direct and indirect discrimination and encompasses all the prohibited grounds of discrimination, including sexual orientation and gender identity (Iceland);**
- 112.29 **Pass and implement laws that would recognize same-sex partnerships and define the rights and obligations of cohabiting couples in same-sex unions (Iceland);**
- 112.30 **Enact legislation that explicitly prohibits discrimination against all persons on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity (Denmark);**
- 112.31 **Take gender issues into account in the national policies and programmes to combat climate change (Luxembourg);**
- 112.32 **Take gender issues into account in national climate change policies and programmes and ensure that women are involved in the development and implementation of these policies and programmes (Togo);**
- 112.33 **Integrate a gender perspective into national policies and programmes on climate change, disaster response and disaster risk reduction (Timor-Leste);**
- 112.34 **Ensure the inclusion of people with disabilities in the Disaster Risk Management Act, and in the implementation of all disaster risk reduction and management plans to reduce and mitigate the impact of climate change (Vanuatu);**
- 112.35 **Take specific measures aiming for greater inclusion of people with disabilities in climate change adaptation plans and projects (Angola);**
- 112.36 **Establish a clear regulatory framework for the industries operating in the country, in particular the tourism, fishing and farming industries, to ensure that their activities do not negatively affect children's rights or endanger environmental and other standards (Zambia);**
- 112.37 **Take concrete measures to fight against the negative impacts of climate change, in particular in the tourism sector (Haiti);**
- 112.38 **Continue its commitment to promoting climate action through its revised and upscaled Nationally Determined Contributions and other related measures (Barbados);**
- 112.39 **Further improve disaster response capacity (China);**
- 112.40 **Ensure that women, children, persons with disabilities, minority groups and local communities are meaningfully engaged in the development and implementation of climate change and disaster risk reduction frameworks (Fiji);**
- 112.41 **Strengthen national development programmes that reach the whole country to meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, including through the utilization of bilateral and international cooperation (Indonesia);**

- 112.42 Introduce a specific legal prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment into the criminal law of the Seychelles, incorporating all elements set out in article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ireland);
- 112.43 Adopt the legal provisions specifically prohibiting torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Montenegro);
- 112.44 Strengthen human rights training and capacity-building of State agents, including law enforcement officials, and consider adopting a national plan for human rights education (Brazil);
- 112.45 Reform the detention policy to ensure separation between detainees and convicted prisoners in detention places and adopt strategies to reduce prison overcrowding (Botswana);
- 112.46 Intensify anti-corruption efforts, in particular by ensuring the investigative powers of the anti-corruption commission (France);
- 112.47 Take all necessary measures to ensure that pretrial detention is reduced to the extent possible, and carried out in keeping with the provisions of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (South Africa);
- 112.48 Strengthen support to the judicial system, including through the allocation of sufficient human, technical and financial resources and through regular capacity-building on women's rights and gender equality for judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers and other law enforcement officials (Bulgaria);
- 112.49 Explore possibilities to extend the right to vote in presidential and parliamentary elections to Seychelles citizens living abroad (Germany);
- 112.50 Establish an adequate legal framework and human rights-based standards for the tourism and fisheries industries, paying particular attention to the prevention of human trafficking and forced labour (Indonesia);
- 112.51 Expedite the amendment to the Civil Status Act to abolish marriage of girls under 18 years of age (Malawi);
- 112.52 Continue efforts to combat occupational segregation, in particular pay inequality between men and women (Mauritania);
- 112.53 Establish in legislation the principle of equal remuneration for work of equal value and equal access to credit for women (Mexico);
- 112.54 Continue to support, through economic and social policies, the institution of the family and the preservation of family values (Haiti);
- 112.55 Continue efforts to ensure access to quality education and health-care services, as well as efforts to address the negative effects of climate change (Nigeria);
- 112.56 Continue implementing its sound policies in the field of economic, social and cultural rights, in order to provide the highest level of welfare to its population (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 112.57 Further strengthen efforts to protect and support those in vulnerable conditions, including women, children, migrants and persons living with disabilities (Barbados);
- 112.58 Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development and to reduce poverty (China);
- 112.59 Continue to increase investment in education and health to better safeguard people's right to education and health (China);

- 112.60 Continue promoting the welfare of all its citizens, especially the elderly, people living with albinism and people living with disabilities (Eswatini);
- 112.61 Enhance measures to further improve access to health care (Sri Lanka);
- 112.62 Continue to consolidate legislative reforms on the right to health to guarantee universal access to health services (Dominican Republic);
- 112.63 Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 to ensure zero unmet need for family planning information and services, and universal availability of quality, affordable and safe modern contraceptives (Iceland);
- 112.64 Strengthen legislative, policy and institutional measures to protect the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls, and men and boys, including reproductive health programmes for adolescents, and to ensure access to comprehensive health services, confidential counselling and support for pregnant adolescent girls (Canada);
- 112.65 Take further measures to increase the number of qualified teachers, decrease dropout rates and improve accessibility to education for all children (Japan);
- 112.66 Adopt necessary measures to ensure effective inclusion of children with disabilities within the mainstream schools through requisite advocacy programmes (Kenya);
- 112.67 Consider having free universal education, at least until the age of 16 (Mauritius);
- 112.68 Provide sufficient resources and continue efforts to implement its inclusive education policy, ensuring that children with disabilities have the necessary support services to exercise their right to education (South Africa);
- 112.69 Redouble efforts to provide sufficient resources to implement the inclusive education policy adopted in 2015, to guarantee the right to education to children with disabilities (South Sudan);
- 112.70 Continue to advance the right to education through appropriate laws, policies and programmes (Sri Lanka);
- 112.71 Continue to address school dropout rates and reduce the number of out-of-school children, paying special attention to boys, while also taking measures to provide adequate vocational training for girls (Guyana);
- 112.72 Ensure the effective retention and reintegration of pregnant girls and young mothers into the school system, including by reviewing the teenage pregnancy policy to include out-of-school educational support for teenage mothers (Guyana);
- 112.73 Explicitly proscribe in its national legislation any form of discrimination in education (Ukraine);
- 112.74 Implement capacity-building measures for providing better education, including for children with disabilities (Azerbaijan);
- 112.75 Continue national efforts to prepare and train qualified teachers, through the implementation of the policies defined by the Ministry of Education and the construction of new education centres (Cuba);
- 112.76 Continue strengthening policies on access to quality and universal public education (Dominican Republic);
- 112.77 Adopt a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women in its Constitution, covering internationally recognized prohibited grounds of discrimination and encompassing direct and indirect discrimination in both the public and the private spheres (South Africa);

- 112.78 Fully incorporate the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women into its national legislation (Serbia);
- 112.79 Adopt measures to increase the number of women representatives in decision-making positions (Israel);
- 112.80 Continue its efforts to increase the representation of women at the decision-making level in political and public life (Nepal);
- 112.81 Introduce a minimum quota of 30 per cent for the representation of women in Parliament (South Sudan);
- 112.82 Ensure that the activities and programmes of the National Gender Policy adequately address the problems faced by men and boys in Seychellois society, and are aimed at promoting positive norms of masculinity (Haiti);
- 112.83 Ensure greater representation of women in positions of responsibility and in political bodies, particularly in Parliament (Senegal);
- 112.84 Consider passing stronger legislation with a view to combating gender-based violence and child abuse (Sierra Leone);
- 112.85 Continue to move towards the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination against lesbian, bisexual, trans and intersex women (Chile);
- 112.86 Conduct a comprehensive assessment based on which adequate budgetary resources would be allocated for the implementation of all children's rights, especially in health and education (Serbia);
- 112.87 Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility (Luxembourg);
- 112.88 Take the necessary legal amendments to raise the age of criminal responsibility, in line with international standards (Portugal);
- 112.89 Intensify its efforts to protect children from the scourge of drug abuse (Malawi);
- 112.90 Strengthen its measures to address drug use by children and adolescents (Timor-Leste);
- 112.91 Strengthen measures to combat drug use among children and adolescents (Angola);
- 112.92 Ensure that children are not used in the traffic of illegal substances (Marshall Islands);
- 112.93 Increase penalties, resources, inspections, and remediation for all forms of forced or compulsory labour, as well as the worst forms of child labour (United States of America);
- 112.94 Ensure to thoroughly investigate and promptly prosecute cases of using, procuring or offering children for prostitution (Fiji);
- 112.95 Fully implement the measures taken to ensure the involvement of disabled persons in society, including children (Marshall Islands);
- 112.96 Ensure access to education and health services for persons with disabilities, and the allocation of adequate resources for said services (Philippines);
- 112.97 Intensify efforts to adopt and implement a comprehensive national strategy with the aim of raising awareness about the issue of disability and building a culture that encourages the inclusion and participation in society of all persons with disabilities (Sudan);

112.98 **Make all necessary adjustments to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Chile);**

112.99 **Promote the training of public sector personnel in the field of human rights and strengthen national bodies responsible for guaranteeing the rights of persons with disabilities (Djibouti);**

112.100 **Consider taking policy-oriented measures and review existing domestic legislation to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (India);**

112.101 **Establish a legislative framework on refugee matters that provides for the determination of refugee status, and adopt measures to prevent statelessness (Mexico);**

112.102 **Accelerate the incorporation into domestic law of the provisions of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, by adopting a national legislative framework on asylum and by establishing a national asylum system (Togo).**

113. **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 Seychelles was headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Tourism, H.E. Mr. Sylvestre Radegonde, and composed of the following members:

- Ms Vivianne Fock Tave, The Principal Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Department of the Republic of Seychelles;
 - Mr Franck Ally, The Attorney General of the Republic of Seychelles;
 - Mr Stefan R. Knights, A Legal Draftperson from the Department of Legal affairs;
 - Ms Sandra Michel, Foreign Affairs Department;
 - Ms Teresa Laurencine, Foreign Affairs Department;
 - Mrs Melissa Stravens, Foreign Affairs Department;
 - Ms Nathalie Young, Foreign Affairs Department;
 - Mr Wilfred Uranie, Ministry of Education;
 - Ms Jane Larue; Ministry of Youth Sports and Family;
 - Mrs Tessie Victor, Ministry of Youth Sports and Family;
 - Ms Tessa Henderson, Seychelles Media Commission;
 - Ms. Alda Aumeeruddy, Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs (Employment);
 - Mrs Linda William Melanie, Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs (Social Affairs);
 - Ms Sheryl Vengadasamy, Ministry of Internal Affairs;
 - Mrs Patricia Bacquero, Seychelles National Aids Council;
 - Deputy Superintendent Samir Ghislain, Seychelles Prison Service.
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