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Universal periodic review

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

### Marshall Islands

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\* 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-sixth session from 2 to 13 November 2020. The review of the Marshall Islands was held at the 11th meeting, on 9 November 2020. The delegation of the Marshall Islands was headed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Casten Ned Nemra. At its 17th meeting, held on 13 November 2020, the Working Group adopted the report on the Marshall Islands.
2. On 14 January 2020, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of the Marshall Islands: Australia, Republic of Korea and Mauritania.
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 the Marshall Islands:
  - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/36/MHL/1);
  - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/36/MHL/2);
  - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/36/MHL/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Canada, Germany, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay was transmitted to the Marshall Islands 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 head of delegation conveyed the appreciation of the President, David Kabua, and the people of the Marshall Islands to OHCHR, the Human Rights Council and the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review for providing the Marshall Islands with the opportunity to present its third national report on the situation of human rights in the country.
6. Owing to its particular geography and topography, the Marshall Islands was very vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and experienced annual droughts and flooding from king tides. The impacts of climate change were increasing, both in frequency and severity. The economy remained largely dependent on donor funding, as well as on the export of copra, tuna and other marine products.
7. Since its second universal periodic review, in 2015, the Marshall Islands had made significant progress in meeting its human rights obligations. While work on establishing a national human rights institution was still under way, the Human Rights Committee established in October 2015 acted as the multi-stakeholder body mandated to promote human rights in the country. The Committee consisted of representatives of core government ministries and non-governmental organizations. The creation of the Committee was only the first step towards following through on the commitment to establishing an independent human rights institution. The creation of an ombudsman's office had been a priority for the Committee.
8. The Marshall Islands was committed to improving the situation of human rights in the country, as demonstrated by the enactment of legislation that reflected the core values enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons

with Disabilities. Legislative acts had been adopted, for example, on the protection of children's rights, the rights of persons with disabilities, the Human Rights Committee, the Youth Service Corps, equal employment opportunities, the prohibition of trafficking in persons and gender equality.

9. In keeping with its international commitments, since 2018 the Marshall Islands had acceded to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women establishing an individual complaints procedure and several conventions of the International Labour Organization, including the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182). Other human rights conventions were undergoing national procedures for review.

10. The Marshall Islands had thus far acceded to 11 core human rights conventions and optional protocols and, as such, was among the countries in the Pacific islands region with the highest rate of participation. The Marshall Islands was committed to identifying the best ways of implementing the conventions and fulfilling its reporting obligations through its Human Rights Committee, but also underscored that it was a challenge for small island developing States to achieve those goals given their limited resources. Efforts had been made to achieve progress on implementation, monitoring, analysis and communications of human rights obligations and in respect of the goals set out in the National Strategic Plan 2020–2030. Furthermore, the Marshall Islands was hoping to install a database to coordinate, track and report on the full scope of the Government's human rights commitments. In order to address barriers to implementation and to increase transparency and accountability, the Marshall Islands had endorsed the Pacific Principles of Practice of National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up.

11. The Marshall Islands had recently endorsed the National Strategic Plan 2020–2030, a 10-year road map for developing its national priorities and for bringing them into line with national policies, sectoral plans and international agreements such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

12. The people of the Marshall Islands and their culture had been the source of inspiration for the National Strategic Plan 2020–2030, which aimed to provide every citizen with the opportunity to enjoy an improved quality of life in all areas, including health, education, energy, food, security, law and order, gender equality, employment opportunities and disaster mitigation. The Government was honoured to have been elected to membership in the Human Rights Council and hoped to contribute to helping humanity and ensuring continual improvements in multilateral efforts towards the realization of human rights.

13. The Marshall Islands had taken proactive measures to address the unique and difficult challenges the country faced in addressing human rights, including in relation to impacts from nuclear weapons testing, climate change and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. In 2012, the Marshall Islands had accepted the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes and, in 2017, had passed legislation to establish the National Nuclear Commission and develop a plan of action to address issues raised by the Special Rapporteur and to enhance efforts to seek meaningful advocacy and justice on behalf of affected communities. It was seeking the assistance of the United States of America in addressing recommendations on action to be taken. The Marshall Islands was currently not prepared to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons due to some concerns about the provisions in the Treaty that wrongfully placed the disproportionately heavy burden of victim assistance and remediation on countries affected by nuclear testing instead of on those responsible for carrying out the tests in the first place. That notwithstanding, the Marshall Islands would continue to review the Treaty and engage in multilateral discussions with all concerned and to urge the international community to take steps towards achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

14. Climate change created another layer of challenges and threatened the fundamental human rights of people worldwide, especially the people of low-lying atoll nations. The Government was working with development partners, civil society organizations and donors, including national, regional and international organizations, through multiple consultations, to combat the ongoing impacts of climate change.

15. The Marshall Islands had declared a state of emergency several days after the World Health Organization had declared COVID-19 a public health emergency and had begun the process of protecting its citizens and borders from COVID-19. Substantial resources had been directed towards that effort and preparatory work had been done for a countrywide lockdown in the event of COVID-19 breaching the country's borders. The Marshall Islands noted that the public school system had developed a COVID-19 plan and had taken all steps necessary to address the needs of students, especially those with special needs. That included ensuring that people on neighbouring islands had access to water catchments, medical supplies, proper toilet facilities and other essential needs. Although the Marshall Islands had been successful at keeping COVID-19 at bay, the economy had suffered, which was problematic for a small island developing State. In response, the Marshall Islands had created a COVID-19 pandemic economic relief programme to provide assistance to businesses affected by COVID-19.

16. In conclusion, the head of delegation underlined that this was a universal effort that required collaboration, partnership and the assistance of the international community, and requested that the international community provide technical and financial assistance to public, private and national non-governmental organizations for the implementation of the human rights obligations of the Marshall Islands.

## **B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review**

17. During the interactive dialogue, 65 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

18. Tunisia commended the Marshall Islands for the adoption of laws and policies to protect children's rights and persons with disabilities, to prevent discrimination against women and to address human trafficking. Tunisia appreciated the ratification of core human rights treaties and the cooperation with OHCHR and United Nations mechanisms.

19. Ukraine commended the Marshall Islands for its efforts to improve its legal and structural framework to advance human rights, qualifying them as encouraging. It welcomed the ratification of the core human rights treaties, as well as the cooperation with special procedures and treaty bodies.

20. The United Kingdom applauded the Marshall Islands for its work to address the risks to human rights posed by climate change-driven threats. It welcomed the steps taken to tackle discrimination against women and encouraged continued reform to protect women from violence and other forms of discrimination.

21. The United States congratulated the Marshall Islands on its election to the Human Rights Council and welcomed its global leadership on human rights. It expressed its commitment to partnering with the Marshall Islands to advance human rights priorities.

22. Vanuatu noted the efforts made towards protecting and defending human rights. Vanuatu recognized the heavy price of climate change impacts and noted the engagement of the Government in the call for climate action for adaptation, mitigation and prevention.

23. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela regretted that the lack of capacity and resources were serious obstacles to addressing human rights commitments in the Marshall Islands. It highlighted the accession of the country to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

24. Argentina congratulated the Marshall Islands on the intention of the authorities to further extend the standing invitation made to special procedure mandate holders and on its cooperation with treaty bodies and other international mechanisms and institutions.

25. Armenia appreciated the increased efforts to accede to fundamental human rights treaties and the cooperation with the United Nations and its mechanisms. It encouraged the Marshall Islands to promote the realization of an inclusive, non-discriminatory right to education, including by reducing non-attendance and the school dropout rate.
26. Australia commended the Marshall Islands for its efforts to strengthen human rights since the previous review, including its work to address domestic and family violence and the introduction of important legislative instruments. Australia congratulated the Government on its election to the Human Rights Council.
27. Bahamas recognized the country for raising awareness of climate change and its impacts on human rights. It encouraged the Marshall Islands to avail itself of technical assistance and capacity-building support, considering its human rights priorities, and called upon the international community for support.
28. Belarus expressed concern about an overall unsatisfactory human rights situation in the Marshall Islands.
29. Belgium congratulated the Marshall Islands for having been an active member during its first term in the Human Rights Council and applauded the ratification of human rights instruments. Belgium called for further efforts to increase the protection of human rights in the country.
30. Brazil commended the Marshall Islands for its ratification of core human rights treaties. Brazil called for the adequate enforcement of the 2017 prohibition of trafficking in persons act and for the establishment of support and rehabilitation services to victims.
31. Canada congratulated the Marshall Islands for its implementation of the 2019 gender equality law, to promote non-discrimination and the full enjoyment of rights and fundamental freedoms. Canada called upon the Government to ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
32. Chile commended the Marshall Islands for its adoption of the 2019 gender equality law prohibiting gender-based discrimination. Chile welcomed the amendment of the law on prevention and protection against domestic violence, which ensured the investigation of complaints and the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators.
33. China noted the efforts to tackle climate change. China expressed concern about the systematic discrimination and violence suffered by women and rampant human trafficking. It noted high levels of poverty, inadequate health and education systems, child marriage and child labour.
34. Cuba warmly welcomed the delegation from the Marshall Islands and thanked it for presenting the national report. Cuba commended the approval of laws on equal employment opportunities, gender equality and the prohibition of trafficking in persons.
35. Cyprus expressed appreciation for the commitment made by the Marshall Islands to the universal promotion and protection of human rights. It commended the Marshall Islands for its efforts in promoting gender equality and enhancing women's participation in public life. Furthermore, it welcomed the ratification of four international conventions.
36. Denmark commended the Marshall Islands for acceding to a number of important human rights instruments since its previous universal periodic review. Denmark remained concerned, however, about the high prevalence of violence in domestic settings, including gender-based violence and violence against children.
37. The Dominican Republic welcomed the delegation of the Marshall Islands and its report. The Dominican Republic commended the Marshall Islands for its efforts and commitments, as an island country, to implementing plans to address climate change and related disasters.
38. Estonia commended the Government for acceding to several international human rights instruments and encouraged it to make progress in respect of gender-based violence, domestic violence, child abuse and human trafficking. It expressed concern about the high rate of children dropping out of the education system.

39. Fiji commended the Marshall Islands for the various legislative amendments undertaken since the previous review, including the passing of the Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection (Amendment) Act 2018 and the Gender Equality Act 2019 to better protect and promote the rights of women and girls.
40. France welcomed the progress made by the Marshall Islands with regard to the human rights situation, in particular the ratification of numerous international conventions, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
41. Georgia commended the Government for ratifying a number of key human rights instruments and adopting acts on gender equality, domestic violence, children, persons with disabilities and trafficking in persons. Georgia also commended the Government for its submission of periodic reports to the treaty bodies.
42. Germany acknowledged the major challenges resulting from the effects of climate change and welcomed the ratification of several important international conventions. Germany remained concerned about the lack of systematic and adequate implementation of the rights of minorities, women and children.
43. Greece recognized the progress that had been achieved since the previous review, notably through the accession to a large number of core human rights treaties. Greece commended the Marshall Islands for its significant efforts to combat domestic violence and support special education for children with disabilities.
44. Haiti welcomed the efforts made by the Marshall Islands, both nationally and internationally, to fight climate change. Haiti commended the Government for the legislative and political measures it had adopted with a view to combating violence against women.
45. Honduras commended the results obtained in the implementation of past recommendations, in particular the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination.
46. Iceland welcomed the delegation of the Marshall Islands and its submission of the national report, commended it for the steps outlined therein and expressed hope for their continued implementation.
47. India appreciated the enactment of several pieces of legislation and policies by the Marshalls Islands from 2015 to 2019. India commended the measures taken on mitigating climate change and adaptation plans, including the initiation of a “coalition of nations” most vulnerable to climate change.
48. Indonesia commended the Marshall Islands for the progress achieved since its second universal periodic review, particularly the incorporation of core human rights principles in the national legislation and the ratification of core conventions and other legislative measures.
49. The Islamic Republic of Iran noted the effects on the Marshall Islands of the nuclear testing programme conducted by the United States from 1946 to 1958 and it expressed concern about the lack of a comprehensive strategy to address the environmental and intergenerational health impacts.
50. The head of delegation of the Marshall Islands clarified a few points made during his opening remarks. He specified that the Marshall Islands actually had had one case involving a person testing positive for COVID-19 coming from abroad, not two as stated previously. He added that the Marshall Islands had imposed strict border closures and had introduced controlled repatriation measures through a two-phase quarantine process and a number of tests for COVID-19.
51. The Marshall Islands continued to pursue the establishment of a national human rights institution through an ombudsman’s office pursuant to the Constitutional convention and the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), with emphasis on the agreed-upon points of the 2020

Pacific Principles of Practice of National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up.

52. On ratifications, in 2019, when the candidacy of the Marshall Islands for membership in the Human Rights Council was being considered, the Marshall Islands had formally committed itself to considering acceding to all the core international human rights treaties and their optional protocols, the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. It remained committed to that effort, as part of which the Marshall Islands was working to establish a digital database and a mechanism for tracking the implementation of United Nations human rights obligations and recommendations.

53. On human trafficking, the Marshall Islands had launched a widespread campaign to increase efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking, had strengthened public institutions to address human trafficking and had conducted courses to train law enforcement officers to investigate cases of human trafficking and prosecute those responsible. The Marshall Islands continued to make efforts towards preventing and eliminating human trafficking. The National Taskforce on Human Trafficking, which was led by the Attorney General's Office, had developed a national plan for implementing the anti-trafficking act that was currently being considered by the Cabinet. In the meantime, the Government continued to implement and enforce the Prohibition of Human Trafficking Act of 2017.

54. On prisons, the head of delegation noted the concern of Member States concerning the issue of detention facilities. The Government was working to secure land on which to build a new and improved detention facility, which should allow for the separation of juvenile and female prisoners from male prisoners.

55. On gender equality, there were no legal barriers preventing women from running for local or national office. However, social barriers, including historically low numbers of female candidates, continued to hinder women's equitable participation in leadership roles.

56. The head of delegation referred to the nuclear concerns of the Marshall Islands, stating that the national strategy for nuclear justice addressed health care and the environment and, in particular, the need to ensure that all Marshallese had access to quality health care. Cancer care was especially critical and the Government was actively exploring options for the development of national cancer care services and the identification of expanded overseas medical referral options. Similarly, many communities continued to live on former nuclear test sites that were still contaminated. The Marshall Islands was actively working with relevant United States government agencies and officials to ensure that the health and safety of the communities were protected from the ongoing exposure to radiation caused by the United States nuclear weapons testing programme.

57. Through its national cancer programme, the Marshall Islands was continuously searching for new ways to strengthen its cancer screening programme and raising awareness through campaigns.

58. The head of delegation noted that corporal punishment had been prohibited in some legislative acts and noted the recommendation on repealing the "defence justification" for corporal punishment in the Criminal Code. The Government was going to address that issue in a timely manner. The child protection policy of 2015, which prohibited corporal punishment in public schools, had been adopted.

59. The head of delegation stated that from 2011 to 2019 there had been a decrease of 49 per cent in teenage pregnancies. The Ministry of Health and Human Services, along with community-based organizations, was very active in providing services and information on teenage pregnancy. In order to scale up efforts to prevent adolescent pregnancy in the Marshall Islands, that same Ministry, the non-governmental organization Youth to Youth in Health and the United Nations Population Fund had identified the need for a rights-based, action-oriented strategic plan for the prevention of adolescent pregnancies. The development of that plan had included an assessment of existing adolescent pregnancy programmes and

had taken into consideration the cultural and societal context, as appropriate. The Marshall Islands had also adopted a national policy on sexual and reproductive health.

60. On education, the head of delegation stated that in 2019 the public school system had established a position of a truancy officer to oversee work with parents and schools to ensure that children attended classes. The Government was also focused on improving the health of students through lunch programmes and gardening activities.

61. In response to the recommendations on strengthening services for gender-based violence, the head of delegation reported on efforts to train health-care workers using specific domestic violence protocols and said that the Marshall Islands would continue to work with partners and the community to raise awareness and ensure a proper response for and the care of victims of violence against women.

62. Iraq commended the Marshall Islands for the national and legislative measures that it had taken and that, if implemented with commitment, would decidedly improve the situation of human rights in a range of areas.

63. Ireland acknowledged the efforts made to advance human rights and commended the Marshall Islands for the progress made since the previous cycle, particularly as regards accession to a significant number of core human rights instruments. It appreciated having worked alongside the Marshall Islands on the Kwon-Gesh Youth Pledge to include young people in climate policy formulation.

64. Israel acknowledged the many challenges faced by the Marshall Islands because of climate change and congratulated it for the work done to implement international human rights instruments, to address discrimination based on disability, to tackle gender-based violence, to encourage women's participation in public life and to promote inclusive education.

65. Italy hailed the accession of the Marshall Islands to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

66. Japan hailed the accession to major human rights treaties like the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

67. Lesotho took note of the steps that the Marshall Islands had taken to promote and protect human rights and hailed the enactment of the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Act of 2017, aimed at preventing and combating trafficking in persons.

68. Libya commended the Government of the Marshall Islands for its efforts to promote and protect human rights despite the challenges facing it, as reflected by the national laws and policies adopted, and hailed the ratification of many international instruments.

69. Liechtenstein welcomed the efforts that the Marshall Islands had made with a view to the implementation of recommendations since the previous universal periodic review, as well as the country's commitment to human rights in general.

70. Malaysia noted the progress that the Marshall Islands had made since its previous review, including the enactment and implementation of numerous national legislative instruments and policies.

71. Maldives hailed the Marshall Islands' commitment to addressing the impacts of climate change through its efforts to implement adaptation and mitigation projects and welcomed the adoption of the Joint National Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management 2014–2018.

72. Mexico welcomed the establishment of the national Human Rights Committee, the enactment of the Gender Equality Act 2019 and the Child Rights Protection Act 2015 and the accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.



73. Montenegro shared its concern at the high rate of trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation and urged the Government to protect children from all forms of abuse, ensure women's access to justice and provide support services to victims of violence.
74. Morocco hailed the accession by the Marshall Islands to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and took note of the strengthening of the legislative framework to prevent and combat human trafficking and protect and aid victims.
75. Myanmar welcomed the ratification of several human rights instruments since the previous universal periodic review, shared its preoccupation over the impact of nuclear testing, which had affected women's health, and was concerned about reported cases of domestic violence and about the fact that such violence remained culturally acceptable.
76. Nepal welcomed the ratification by the Marshall Islands of various core international human rights instruments since the previous review, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.
77. The Netherlands commended the Marshall Islands on the enactment of the Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection (Amendment) Act 2018 and the adoption of the National Gender Mainstreaming Policy but remained concerned about the high level of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.
78. New Zealand welcomed the scoping work done to determine the feasibility of establishing a national human rights institution and hailed the steps taken to improve gender equality, including through legislation to ensure non-discrimination in employment and promote women's representation in leadership roles.
79. The Niger expressed appreciation for the willingness of the Marshall Islands to cooperate with the United Nations system and its mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights, which was reflected in the country's regular submission of reports to the treaty bodies.
80. Pakistan recognized the multiple challenges faced by the Marshall Islands, which impeded its capacity to comply with international human rights obligations, and therefore backed the call made by several treaty bodies to support the Marshall Islands in dealing with climate change, drought and other weather-related disasters.
81. Panama noted that the legacy of nuclear contamination from testing posed a pressing threat and, therefore, welcomed the interest expressed in a follow-up visit from the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes.
82. The Philippines hailed the passage of several laws to further strengthen human rights protection and particularly welcomed, inter alia, those protecting the rights of children and the rights of persons with disabilities, combating human trafficking and preventing domestic violence.
83. Portugal welcomed the commitment of the Marshall Islands to fulfilling its international human rights obligations and the recent ratification of some core human rights instruments.
84. Republic of Korea welcomed the ratification of core international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It also appreciated the efforts made in establishing a legislative and policy framework for safeguarding vulnerable groups, especially women, children and persons with disabilities.
85. Senegal noted the integration in the public school system of a training programme for social citizenship on human rights, civic responsibilities, gender equality and combating violence against women and girls. It called upon the international community to support the efforts of the Marshall Islands against climate change.
86. Singapore noted the efforts made to combat trafficking in persons and to assist victims. It also noted the progress made in the promotion and protection of the rights of

women and girls, including through the introduction of the Gender Equality Act 2019 and of the National Gender Mainstreaming Policy.

87. Slovenia noted that the Marshall Islands had been a vocal member of the Human Rights Council, particularly on climate change matters, but it noted that domestic violence remained a great challenge. As a new State party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, positive measures were expected to combat the issue.

88. Spain congratulated the Marshall Islands for its efforts to improve the promotion and protection of human rights. Spain congratulated the Marshall Islands for the adoption of policies aimed at the protection of the rights of women and girls.

89. Sri Lanka appreciated that the Marshall Islands had acceded to some key international human rights instruments. It commended the Marshall Islands for the adoption of policy measures to prevent child abuse. Sri Lanka welcomed the enactment of legislation on domestic violence and for the measures taken to prosecute perpetrators.

90. The Syrian Arab Republic made recommendations to the Marshall Islands.

91. Timor-Leste commended the Marshall Islands for being an active voice on the issue of climate change. It also commended the Marshall Islands for the legislative and policy measures taken to combat violence against women.

92. Togo noted with satisfaction that the Marshall Islands had ratified almost all international legal instruments and had taken many initiatives to promote and protect the fundamental freedoms of its citizens.

93. Trinidad and Tobago acknowledged the continuing efforts of the Marshall Islands to keep the protection of human rights as a national priority. It expressed solidarity with the Marshall Islands concerning the efforts to combat the harmful effects of climate change and it further encouraged the Marshall Islands to address the issue of trafficking in persons.

94. South Africa welcomed the fact that the Marshall Islands had ratified some international instruments in line with its commitment to human rights protection.

95. The head of delegation of the Marshall Islands emphasized the role of civil society and the need for joint cooperation with non-governmental organizations and civil society to make progress on human rights.

96. On strengthening primary health care, especially in urban communities, the Ministry of Health and Human Services worked collaboratively with community health councils to provide health-care services. The Marshall Islands had two hospitals (one in Majuro and one in Ebeye) and 56 health-care centres in the outer atolls and islands. Both hospitals provided primary, secondary and limited tertiary care. Patients who needed more tertiary care were referred to health-care providers overseas. The Marshall Islands intended to secure high-quality health care in the outer islands; achieve universal access to high-quality care for all people with communicable diseases; provide integrated services for those with non-communicable diseases, along with the tools and support that people needed to manage their health; increase immunization rates and reduce preventable infectious diseases; and provide efficient and effective administrative and coordination functions for the provision of preventive and public health-care services.

97. On the LGBTQ+ community, the head of delegation explained that the Government had noted the relevant recommendation and that it was seeking to specifically prohibit the criminalization of LGBTQ+ persons and to address discrimination and rights infringements in policies and laws. While the Bill of Rights contained in the Constitution did not specifically prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, it did acknowledge that other rights might exist and could therefore be seen as including the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

98. The Marshall Islands had established the Disabilities Coordination Office in 2015 following the adoption of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2015. A legislative review that had been conducted in 2018 in an effort to comply with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities had resulted in a bill containing proposed amendments.

Although the bill had been introduced into Parliament in August 2019, time constraints meant that it could not be presented in full. The bill was under review with a view to being reintroduced. The Disabilities Coordination Office had implemented several activities to address the needs of persons with disabilities. Within the school system, an inclusive education policy had been developed to enable school-age children with disabilities and their peers without disabilities to be in the same classroom, with a special education teacher assigned to assist them.

99. On gender equality, the Marshall Islands was determined to realize gender equality, women's political and economic empowerment, women's leadership and eliminating violence against women, all of which were essential for transformative change, for sustainable development and for not leaving anyone behind. A comprehensive legislative review had been carried out and Parliament had passed the Gender Equality Act 2019. In the current Administration there was no shortage of political will to ensure the full recognition and realization of human rights for women and girls. The gender gap in the workforce had decrease and evidence showed a narrowing of the gender pay gap. The Marshall Islands continued to improve protection for victims of domestic violence.

100. Regarding access to clean water for all and to sanitation facilities, the head of delegation noted that the water, sanitation and hygiene cluster of the COVID-19 rapid vulnerability assessment had found that, of the 3,392 households surveyed, 814 had no running water and 543 had no toilet. The National Emergency Operations Centre was working to arrange relief packages that included hygiene and sanitation supplies in an effort to protect the most vulnerable populations from COVID-19.

101. The Marshall Islands early childhood development project was going to start in January 2021 and would focus on vulnerable children. The project took a multisectoral approach to strengthening services for the youngest. The main implementing ministries were the Ministry of Health and Human Services, the Ministry of Education, Sports and Training, the Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Finance. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was supporting the project through important preparatory work like the legislative review of children's rights and the high-impact nutrition intervention to address stunting in the Marshall Islands.

102. In closing, the head of delegation conveyed his appreciation for the opportunity to present the third national report and participate in the interactive dialogue. The Marshall Islands was grateful for the recommendations and other feedback received from Member States.

103. The universal periodic review was an important process that assured that all peoples' basic and inherent rights were promoted and protected. The head of delegation gave special recognition to the secretariat of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review and the troikas for their tireless efforts in providing the support necessary to States under review. He emphasized the importance of internal processes and the need for the Human Rights Committee and the Cabinet to consider the recommendations put forward before providing any official response. Responses would be submitted in February 2021, before the forty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council.

104. The Marshall Islands reiterated its commitment to improving the Government's capacity to address human rights issues and would do its best to address the recommendations made.

105. The head of delegation concluded by thanking OHCHR, the Human Rights Council, the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, the Human Rights and Social Development Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and all bilateral partners for their support to ensure the meaningful participation of the Marshall Islands in the current universal periodic review.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

106. The following recommendations will be examined by the Marshall Islands, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the forty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council.

106.1 Ratify the international human rights treaties and instruments and the eight core conventions of the International Labour Organization to which the country is not yet party and harmonize national legislation to ensure their full application (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

106.2 Consider the possibility of signing and ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the other core international human rights instruments to which the country is not a party yet (Argentina);

106.3 Ratify the human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party, including the optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Ukraine);

106.4 Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);

106.5 Sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France); Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Greece) (Iraq) (Niger) (Lesotho) (Germany);

106.6 Sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Honduras); Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Spain) (Germany) (Belgium) (Chile); Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, with a view to formalizing the abolition of the death penalty (Ukraine);

106.7 Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines);

106.8 Sign and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras); Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Lesotho) (Niger);

106.9 Continue finalizing domestic procedures for the ratification of the First and Second Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Georgia);

106.10 Accede to/Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Estonia) (Spain) (Cyprus);

106.11 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Cyprus);

106.12 Accede to/Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark) (Estonia) (Germany); Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Honduras);

106.13 Accede to/Ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Belarus)

**(Syrian Arab Republic) (Sri Lanka) (Liechtenstein) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

106.14 **Consider concluding the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Japan);**

106.15 **Ratify the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Liechtenstein);**

106.16 **Consider signing and ratifying the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, of 1980 (Brazil);**

106.17 **Ratify the Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression (Liechtenstein);**

106.18 **Ratify the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Liechtenstein);**

106.19 **Sign and ratify the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Honduras);**

106.20 **Ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, request the international community for the technical and financial assistance to address the continuing effects of the nuclear testing programme on the human rights of the population and seek justice for victims and environmental remediation (Panama);**

106.21 **Consider acceding to the international treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons, especially considering that the effects of several nuclear tests conducted in the past have affected the environment as well as the health of the people of the Marshall Islands, in particular women's and girls' reproductive health (Vanuatu);**

106.22 **Sign and ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (Bahamas);**

106.23 **Join the Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes, as elaborated by the international coalition against terrorism (Liechtenstein);**

106.24 **Submit its periodic reports to the Committee against Torture and the Human Rights Committee on time (Belarus);**

106.25 **Pursue efforts to cooperate with human rights mechanisms (Niger);**

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

106.27 **Further strengthen the intergovernmental committee based on the Human Rights Committee Act 2015 with a view to establish national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles in supporting the implementation of the core human rights treaties (Indonesia);**

106.28 **Continue to advance the scoping work done to determine the feasibility of establishing a national human rights institution (New Zealand);**

106.29 **Expedite the establishment of processes to domesticate international human rights instruments ratified by the country (South Africa);**

106.30 **Speed up the process of strengthening the national Human Rights Committee and bringing it in line with the Paris Principles (Denmark);**

- 106.31 **Establish an independent human rights institution compliant with the Paris Principles (Senegal) (Germany) (Ukraine) (Iraq) (Timor-Leste) (Togo) (Montenegro); Establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Malaysia) (Australia) (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)); Consider establishing a national human rights mechanism in accordance with the Paris Principles (India); Establish and fully operationalize a national human rights commission in line with the Paris Principles (South Africa); Establish an independent national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles, building on the findings of the scoping study conducted by the Government in 2017 (Ireland);**
- 106.32 **Ensure that the national Human Rights Committee complies with the Paris Principles on national human rights institutions (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 106.33 **Continue efforts to support the Human Rights Committee and ensure its compliance with the Paris Principles (Tunisia);**
- 106.34 **Establish a national human rights action plan with tangible measures to apply the universal periodic review recommendations (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 106.35 **Support the efforts undertaken in the field of training courses aimed at promoting and upholding human rights (Libya);**
- 106.36 **Continue to explore the proposal to introduce protections against discrimination under the Constitution (New Zealand);**
- 106.37 **Take temporary special measures to promote true equality between men and women in all areas where women are underrepresented or disadvantaged (Togo);**
- 106.38 **Continue to promote gender equality and to ensure that equal opportunities are given to women and girls (Sri Lanka);**
- 106.39 **Approve comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, including protections from discrimination because of sexual orientation and gender identity (New Zealand);**
- 106.40 **Intensify its efforts to promote gender equality, including through the effective implementation of the Gender Equality Act 2019 and awareness-raising campaigns (Republic of Korea);**
- 106.41 **Incorporate into national law a prohibition on discrimination based on gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation (Canada);**
- 106.42 **Grant constitutional status to the prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or any other condition or personal circumstance that may be used as a reason for discrimination (Cuba);**
- 106.43 **Pass and implement laws that would recognize same-sex partnerships and define the rights and obligations of co-habiting couples in same-sex unions (Iceland);**
- 106.44 **Take steps to include sexual orientation, gender identity or expression as grounds in anti-discrimination legislation (Israel);**
- 106.45 **Protect citizens, especially vulnerable groups, from disasters caused by climate change (Belarus);**
- 106.46 **Take measures to address the damage to the environment and to people's health caused by the United States nuclear tests (China);**
- 106.47 **Ensure that women, especially rural women, children, persons with disabilities and indigenous and local communities, are meaningfully engaged in the development and implementation of climate change and disaster risk reduction frameworks (Fiji);**

- 106.48 Pursue efforts to combat climate change impacts that affect the exercise of human rights (Morocco);
- 106.49 Intensify efforts to address the long-term effects of the nuclear tests conducted between 1946 and 1958, especially with regard to achieving justice and accountability (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 106.50 Continue its efforts to mobilize international cooperation and support to address the impacts of climate change on the socioeconomic conditions of women and children (Nepal);
- 106.51 Develop national capacity to implement its international human rights obligations and tap into international technical assistance for addressing the challenges of climate change (Pakistan);
- 106.52 Strengthen the conduct of awareness-raising campaigns and education and training on climate change adaptation and disaster risk education and reduction (Philippines);
- 106.53 Continue to strengthen efforts to address the human rights impacts of climate change and natural disasters and ensure access to evacuation centres for all, particularly in the outer islands (Republic of Korea);
- 106.54 Create specialized prison facilities for female and juvenile prisoners (Estonia);
- 106.55 Bring the justice and prison system for minors into full compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and improve the general conditions of detention and treatment of prisoners (France);
- 106.56 Fully implement the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), aimed at guaranteeing the rights of women prisoners (France);
- 106.57 Improve the conditions of its detention facilities, including sanitation and ventilation, and hold juvenile and female adult prisoners separately from adult male prisoners, consistent with international standards (United States of America);
- 106.58 Strengthen the judicial system, including through the allocation of sufficient human, technical and financial resources, as well as systematic capacity-building on women's rights and gender equality for relevant authorities (Malaysia);
- 106.59 Further address relevant norms and standards to affirm children's rights and to bring its juvenile justice system fully into line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant standards, as well as to strengthen both the quality and the availability of mental health-care services and programmes for children (South Africa);
- 106.60 Take the necessary measures to ensure freedom of access to public information and consider adopting relevant legislation (Dominican Republic);
- 106.61 Continue efforts in order to combat human trafficking and all forms of exploitation, particularly the sexual exploitation of women and children (Tunisia);
- 106.62 Commence a widespread public awareness-raising campaign on human trafficking (Bahamas);
- 106.63 Increase efforts to investigate and prosecute traffickers (Bahamas);
- 106.64 Intensify cooperation with Human Rights Council special procedures, including by organizing a visit to the country by the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children (Belarus);

- 106.65 Strengthen the implementation of legislation against exploitation and trafficking in persons, including children, and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and convicted (Belgium);
- 106.66 Strengthen public institutions in order to combat trafficking in persons by allocating earmarked resources and training law enforcement officers to investigate, prosecute and sentence traffickers (Canada);
- 106.67 Take effective measures against human trafficking and protect the rights of women and children (China);
- 106.68 Intensify ongoing efforts to combat human trafficking and illegal adoptions (France);
- 106.69 Intensify its efforts to fight human trafficking through robust domestic actions and accession to relevant international legal instruments (Georgia);
- 106.70 Continue to be actively involved in international technical assistance cooperation in improving human rights protection in the areas of climate change and environmentally sound waste management and in combating human trafficking, slavery and other human rights abuses (Indonesia);
- 106.71 Adopt a comprehensive national plan of action to prohibit all forms of slavery (Iraq);
- 106.72 Take further measures to effectively prevent trafficking in persons, as well as forced labour and sexual exploitation (Italy);
- 106.73 Increase efforts to eliminate human trafficking in the Marshall Islands, including by vigorously investigating, prosecuting and sentencing human traffickers, correctly identifying human trafficking victims as such and enhancing the assistance provided to victims (United States of America);
- 106.74 Continue its efforts to address trafficking in and exploitation of women and children, set up sufficient shelters for victims and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice (Myanmar);
- 106.75 Increase efforts to investigate and prosecute people traffickers and proactively adopt measures to identify and support victims of trafficking (New Zealand);
- 106.76 Intensify efforts to develop and implement responsive programmes to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and provide adequate assistance, especially to child victims (Philippines);
- 106.77 Continue to uphold the legislation on human trafficking (Senegal);
- 106.78 Ensure, in cooperation with international partners, as appropriate, adequate training for its judicial, prosecutorial and law enforcement officials on hearing, prosecuting and investigating trafficking in persons cases (Singapore);
- 106.79 Take concrete measures to combat human trafficking and harmonize the 2017 law with its international obligations with a view to strengthening protection frameworks for women and children victims (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 106.80 Dismantle networks of human trafficking, especially across borders, and ensure accountability for those involved (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 106.81 Establish a mechanism and procedures to ensure the reporting of cases of trafficking in and exploitation of children and ensure that legislation on this is strictly applied so that the perpetrators are brought to justice (Togo);
- 106.82 Strictly enforce its legislation on trafficking in persons by adopting a comprehensive national action plan and expedite the adoption of the standard operating procedures for law enforcement and the review of immigration policies (South Africa);



- 106.83 **On human trafficking, significantly increase the efforts regarding data collection, prevention campaigns, allocation of resources to support victims and investigation, prosecution and punishment (Spain);**
- 106.84 **Continue to address trafficking in persons through national, regional and international partnerships (Armenia);**
- 106.85 **Take effective steps to combat corruption and trafficking in persons (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 106.86 **Continue to support the institution of the family and family values (Haiti);**
- 106.87 **Work to promote economic and social development to reduce poverty in the population and ensure the right to education of poor children (China);**
- 106.88 **Take concrete and quantifiable measures necessary to promote more nutritious, diversified and healthy diets, as well as active lifestyles, in particular by improving food education (Haiti);**
- 106.89 **Strengthen the ongoing cooperation with international mechanisms working on the implementation of the human rights to drinking water and sanitation (Spain);**
- 106.90 **Take immediate steps to guarantee access to clean water and sanitation for all and ensure that sanitation facilities are adequately available (Malaysia);**
- 106.91 **Take targeted measures to address the impact of nuclear testing programmes, including environmental damage and the intergenerational health impact on citizens, especially women and girls (Belarus);**
- 106.92 **Elaborate a broad strategy to address the ongoing effects of the nuclear testing programmes on the environment, health and the livelihoods of the people of the Marshall Islands, particularly women and children (Chile);**
- 106.93 **Expand the national cancer prevention programme to address the adverse impacts of past nuclear testing and ensure that the programme is adequately funded (Fiji);**
- 106.94 **Develop a comprehensive engagement strategy on the effects of the nuclear testing programme conducted by the United States of America in order to address the continuing effects of the nuclear testing programme on the environment, on health and on the livelihoods of the Marshallese people, in particular women and girls, and to replenish the nuclear trust fund (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 106.95 **Expand its national cancer prevention programme to address the effects of nuclear testing, which has had a disproportionate impact on women's health, and ensure that the health sector is adequately funded (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 106.96 **Expand the national cancer prevention programmes to address the effects of nuclear testing, which has had a disproportionate impact on women's health, and ensure that the health sector is adequately funded (Malaysia);**
- 106.97 **Strengthen primary health care, particularly its preventive component, in order to reduce the high incidence of diseases such as diabetes and tuberculosis (Cuba);**
- 106.98 **Continue efforts to provide health care, including programmes to educate the public and to address the risks of diabetes and communicable diseases (Indonesia);**
- 106.99 **Take concrete measures to tackle stigma and discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their families and to ensure they have timely and adequate access to health services (Portugal);**

- 106.100 Fully implement the prevention of adolescent pregnancy strategy and ensure that comprehensive sexuality education is systematically integrated into the family health education curriculum, to combat the high prevalence of sexually transmitted infections and pregnancies among adolescents (Iceland);
- 106.101 Enhance measures to ensure access to health care by women, especially those from the outer islands, by increasing sufficient funds (Myanmar);
- 106.102 Review, update and strengthen access to family planning commodities, information and services, including by updating the reproductive health policy, which expired in 2018 (Slovenia);
- 106.103 Enhance efforts on the realization of the right to education for all and facilitate access to education (Sri Lanka);
- 106.104 Pursue efforts on inclusive education and the development of school infrastructure (Morocco);
- 106.105 Guarantee that all children have access to education, especially those living in poverty and on the outer islands, and increase efforts to prevent children from dropping out of school by, inter alia, strengthening measures to combat child marriage, pregnancy among girls and adolescents and child labour (Portugal);
- 106.106 Continue efforts to improve access to education, reduce absenteeism and ensure access to schooling (Dominican Republic);
- 106.107 Strengthen its efforts to ensure equal access to quality education, especially for girls and children with disabilities (Maldives);
- 106.108 Redouble the efforts to increase the school attendance rate, including by strengthening measures to combat child marriage, early pregnancy and child labour (Panama);
- 106.109 Take measures to ensure that comprehensive and age-appropriate education on sexuality and reproductive health and rights is systematically integrated into school curricula (Fiji);
- 106.110 As a State party to both the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, fully implement the relevant provisions that promote access to and participation in cultural heritage and creative expressions (Cyprus);
- 106.111 Incorporate fully the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women into its national legislation (Chile);
- 106.112 Amend national legislation incorporating international human rights obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Ukraine);
- 106.113 Fully incorporate all provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women into the national legislation (Montenegro);
- 106.114 Develop and pass domestic legislation on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, especially in the field of equal participation of women in public and political life (Netherlands);
- 106.115 Further to the Gender Equality Act 2019, adopt a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women in line with article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Cyprus);

- 106.116 Continue to take appropriate steps to strengthen legislative and policy measures against gender-based violence (India);
- 106.117 Continue to elaborate policies to combat violence and discrimination based on gender (Argentina);
- 106.118 Effectively implement the Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection (Amendment) Act 2018, including through advocacy and awareness-raising among targeted audiences (Australia);
- 106.119 Continue efforts to prevent all forms of discrimination against women and to consolidate equality between men and women (Tunisia);
- 106.120 Continue its efforts towards eliminating domestic violence (Greece);
- 106.121 Prioritize the implementation of the Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection (Amendment) Act 2018 (Cyprus);
- 106.122 Intensify efforts to raise awareness, including through educational and media campaigns, of the criminal nature of gender-based and domestic violence, targeting both men and women in order to eradicate its social acceptance and encourage reporting (Belgium);
- 106.123 Continue to work with all relevant stakeholders to increase societal awareness and buy-in to eliminate discrimination, including violence and negative stereotypes, against women (Singapore);
- 106.124 Take action at all levels to address sexual and gender-based violence, including by ensuring adequate resources and training for relevant authorities and the incorporation of all provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women into national law (Ireland);
- 106.125 Counter gender-based violence, including sexual and domestic violence, and strengthen the social services to provide assistance to women victims of violence (Italy);
- 106.126 Take concrete steps to combat sexual and gender-based violence, including by promoting the reporting to authorities of instances of domestic violence (United States of America);
- 106.127 Combat violence against women and girls; eradicate corporal punishment against children; investigate, prosecute and punish reported cases; and guarantee access to justice and reparation for victims (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 106.128 Continue its efforts in promoting gender equality and taking effective measures to combat gender-based violence, including domestic violence (Liechtenstein);
- 106.129 Improve enforcement of the Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection (Amendment) Act 2018 by investing in training for local and national authorities to assist victims of domestic violence and by increasing the awareness and understanding of the law in the community (Netherlands);
- 106.130 Further develop policies and implement measures to reduce violence against women and girls (New Zealand);
- 106.131 Continue strengthening its mechanisms and policies to eradicate violence against women and girls and to promote gender equality in order to encourage women's access to key roles in society (Vanuatu);
- 106.132 Continue the efforts to combat gender-based violence against women, in particular domestic and sexual violence and, in this context, increase the collection of statistical data (Portugal);
- 106.133 Prevent violence and discrimination against women and enhance the participation of women in public life, including in electoral processes (Brazil);

- 106.134 **Take measures to improve women's representation in decision-making positions in the public sector and to reduce the gender pay gap (Israel);**
- 106.135 **Ensure access to justice for women by addressing physical and economic barriers, in particular for women residing in the outer islands (Malaysia);**
- 106.136 **Strengthen the means to ensure women's participation in Parliament and at all levels of public administration (Mexico);**
- 106.137 **Take effective measures to facilitate greater participation and representation of women in public office and reduce the high level of teenage pregnancies and the alarming rate of sexually transmitted infections (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 106.138 **Strengthen support services for survivors of gender-based violence by creating shelters, ensuring access to them and improving the availability of mental health services (Canada);**
- 106.139 **Enhance support services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence and take measures to raise awareness among law enforcement officials of the serious nature of domestic and gender-based violence (Fiji);**
- 106.140 **Implement a systematic approach to enhance measures for collecting statistical data on gender-based violence against women, including domestic violence (Germany);**
- 106.141 **Strengthen the systematic collection of statistical data on gender-based violence against women, including domestic violence, disaggregated by age and relationship between the victim and the perpetrator (Iceland);**
- 106.142 **Enhance statistical collection of disaggregated data on gender-based violence, including domestic violence (Philippines);**
- 106.143 **Adopt coordinated and adequately funded awareness-raising activities and programmes targeting men and boys and aimed at changing attitudes and promoting positive norms of masculinity (Haiti);**
- 106.144 **Step up measures to narrow the gender pay gap by encouraging equal pay for equal work (Myanmar);**
- 106.145 **Further enhance efforts to promote and protect the rights of women and children (Japan);**
- 106.146 **Organize awareness-raising programmes to eliminate gender-discriminatory stereotypes (Myanmar);**
- 106.147 **Adopt a comprehensive strategy to eliminate patriarchal attitudes and discriminatory stereotypes concerning the roles of women and men in the family and in society (Panama);**
- 106.148 **Urgently address patriarchal norms to affirm women's rights (South Africa);**
- 106.149 **Continue its efforts to implement legislative and policy measures on child rights protection (Nepal);**
- 106.150 **Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, including by amending the Child Rights Protection Act 2015 and the Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection (Amendment) Act 2018 (Denmark);**
- 106.151 **Take measures to put an end to the corporal punishment of children in all settings and encourage non-violent forms of discipline as an alternative (Israel);**
- 106.152 **Continue its efforts to ensure that corporal punishment in all settings is prohibited (Timor-Leste);**

- 106.153 Entirely prohibit the corporal punishment of children, inter alia, by amending the Criminal Code of 2011 (Germany);
- 106.154 Prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including at home, and repeal the authorization of the use of force to correct children's misconduct in the Criminal Code (Greece);
- 106.155 Take urgent measures to prohibit violence against children and further protect the rights of children (India);
- 106.156 Increase services for the protection of children, including adequate staffing for Human Rights Office in the Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs (Estonia);
- 106.157 Ensure free and compulsory registration of any child born in the country (France);
- 106.158 Fight child labour and ensure children's protection and access to education (France);
- 106.159 Initiate effective efforts and legislation to combat domestic violence, in particular violence against children (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 106.160 Ensure an effective treatment for the phenomenon of child labour, especially its worst forms (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 106.161 Enhance the protection of the rights of children, including by adopting legislation establishing a minimum age for entering the labour market and preventing child, early and forced marriages (Italy);
- 106.162 Support efforts towards the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, particularly with regard to education and physical and mental health (Libya);
- 106.163 In order to further protect the rights of women and girls, take measures, including the allocation of human and financial resources, to carry out efficient and impartial investigations, as well as establish the minimum legal marriage age at 18 years (Spain);
- 106.164 Harmonize the juvenile justice system with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and amend article 107 of the Criminal Code to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 18 years (Mexico);
- 106.165 To incorporate into its national law the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to protect children from discrimination, in particular all groups that are marginalized and vulnerable, such as children living with disabilities and those in rural areas (Vanuatu);
- 106.166 Take further steps to prevent and combat all forms of violence against children and eliminate discrimination against children belonging to disadvantaged groups, in particular regarding their access to education, clean water and sanitation and adequate health-care services (Republic of Korea);
- 106.167 Strengthen its efforts to introduce birth registration procedures and issuance of birth certificates (Maldives);
- 106.168 Step up actions to ensure prompt registration of births and issuance of birth certificates, particularly in rural areas, and ensure the registration of children born out of wedlock and of adolescent mothers (Mexico);
- 106.169 Ensure sufficient resources for the implementation of the Child Rights Protection Act 2015, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2015, the Human Rights Committee Act 2015 and the Gender Equality Act 2019 legislation (Australia);

106.170 **Adopt a disability human rights-based approach to ensure the effective application of the law on the rights of persons with disabilities and the national policy for the inclusive development of persons with disabilities (Chile);**

106.171 **Take the necessary measures to support the enjoyment of rights by persons with disabilities on an equal footing with others (Libya).**

107. **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.**

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## Annex

### Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Marshall Islands was headed by Hon. Casten Ned Nemra, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Doreen deBrum, Ambassador/Permanent Representative, Embassy and Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
  - Mr. Samuel K. Jr. Lanwi, Deputy Permanent Representative, Embassy and Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
  - Mr. Caleb Christopher, Legal Counsel, Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations, New York;
  - Mr. Bernard Adiniwin, Legal Advisor, Office of the President;
  - Ms. Keyoka Kabua, Secretary, National Nuclear Commission;
  - Ms. Rebecca Lorrennij, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Culture & Internal Affairs;
  - Ms. Andrea Muller, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
  - Mrs. Francyne Wase-Jacklick, Deputy, Ministry of Health and Human Services;
  - Ms. Karina deBrum, Chief of Community Development and Human Rights, Ministry of Culture & Internal Affairs;
  - Mrs. Sandy Dismas-Konellos, Staff Coordinator, Public School System;
  - Ms. Janet Nemra, Manager of Disabilities Office, Ministry of Culture & Internal Affairs;
  - Ms. Pamela Rubon-Note, Investigator, DVU, Marshall Islands Police Department;
  - Mrs. Jane Ishiguro, NDC-P In-Country Facilitator;
  - Mrs. Rhea Moss Christian, Commissioner, National Nuclear Commission;
  - Ms. Joy Kawakami, Child Rights Manager, Ministry of Culture & Internal Affairs;
  - Ms. Hilma Lemari, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade;
  - Ms. Teri Elbon, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade;
  - Mr. Balton Nathan, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade.
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