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Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Bahrain

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

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its forty-first session from 7 to 18 November 2022. The review of Bahrain was held at the 1st meeting, on 7 November 2022. The delegation of Bahrain was headed by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Abdullatif Rashed Alzayani. At its 10th meeting, held on 11 November 2022, the Working Group adopted the report on Bahrain.

2. On 12 January 2022, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Bahrain: Gabon, India and the Russian Federation. At its 71st plenary meeting, on 10 May 2022, the General Assembly, pursuant to its resolutions 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and 65/281 of 17 June 2011, elected Czechia for the remainder of the term of office of the Russian Federation beginning on 10 May 2022 and ending on 31 December 2023. Consequently, Czechia replaced the Russian Federation as a member of the troika for the universal periodic review of Bahrain.

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 Bahrain:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);¹

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);²

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).³

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Portugal, on behalf of Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama, Slovenia, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America was transmitted to Bahrain 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 the delegation affirmed the commitment of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism for Human Rights, emphasising its importance and effectiveness in enhancing the human rights situation in all countries of the world.

6. The head of the delegation affirmed the importance of international solidarity in establishing the values of tolerance and peaceful coexistence and promoting the freedom of religion and belief, noting the historic visit of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Kingdom of Bahrain and his participation in the “Bahrain Dialogue Forum: The East and West for Human Coexistence,” which resulted in the announcement of the establishment of the King Hamad International Prize for Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence.

7. The delegation noted that Bahrain was included in the list of countries with very high human development according to the Human Development report issued by the United Nations Development Program for 2022, ranking thirty-fifth globally and third in the Middle East and North Africa region.

¹ A/HRC/WG.6/41/BHR/1.

² A/HRC/WG.6/41/BHR/2.

³ A/HRC/WG.6/41/BHR/3.

8. The delegation provided information about efforts in addressing the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic and its repercussions, through a balance between maintaining public health and safety, and the continuation of life with proactive plans that included:

9. First: Providing Sustainable, high-quality health and treatment services: Bahrain implemented high quality health services with the development of an “open budget that does not take into account costs”, conducting tests and vaccinations free of charge for all citizens and residents alike, with testing amounting to 600% of the population, with 82% receiving the second dose of the vaccine and 67% receiving the booster dose.

10. Second: The implementation of five financial and economic packages: Since March 2020 Bahrain invested worth approximately \$12 billion dollars, the equivalent of one-third of Gross Domestic Product, and including forty initiatives to support individuals, the private sector, and the sectors most affected by the pandemic. This was followed by the launch of the economic recovery plan in October 2021 in accordance with five priorities to accelerate the pace of employment of citizens and their integration in the labour market.

11. Third: Supporting digital transformation in the provision of governmental, health and educational services: Bahrain has an advanced communications and information technology infrastructure, and it ranks first globally in the use of the Internet according to the World Bank, and first in the Arab world in the report of digital trends of the International Telecommunication Union in 2021, and is among the countries with very high indicators in the field of e-government.

12. In the context of promoting economic and social rights, the Kingdom of Bahrain has maintained its Tier 1 ranking for the fifth consecutive year in the US State Department’s Trafficking in Persons report in 2022, a unique achievement of its kind in the Middle East and North Africa, through the application of the Law on Combating Trafficking in Persons of 2008.

13. The delegation affirmed Bahrain’s excellence in protecting the rights of expatriate workers, by establishing a comprehensive and specialised centre to support and protect expatriate workers, that received 60,000 cases since its launch in 2016 to benefit from its guidance, legal, medical, accommodation and preventative services.

14. The delegation referred to the sixth parliamentary and municipal elections, after the success of previous rounds, the most recent of which was in 2018 with a high popular participation rate of more than 67%, in a sign of the vibrancy of the exercise by citizens, both men and women, of their constitutional right to elect.

15. The delegation referred to the issuance of advanced legislation and pioneering mechanisms in the Middle East region, the most important of which are: the application of the Law on Alternative Sanctions and Measures of 2017, which provided for the replacement of custodial sentences after half of it had been served. Due to the success of the programme, in 2021 an amendment was issued which authorised the Ministry of Interior to request the replacement of the sentence of those convicted before the start of the sentence, and the number of beneficiaries has surpassed 4400 since it came into effect.

16. It was pointed that the activation of national oversight mechanisms is increasing, with independent human rights institutions exercising their functions freely, impartially, transparently and with full independence in oversight and accountability in the presence of an impartial judiciary that protects rights, freedoms, and human dignity, the most prominent of which are:

- The National Institution for Human Rights
- The Ombudsman Prisoners
- Detainees Rights Commission
- Special Investigation Unit (SIU)

17. It was referred to The Kingdom’s invitation to invite Resident Ambassadors in the Kingdom and the Resident Coordinator of United Nations to visit the Reform and Rehabilitation Centre in Jau and view all the facilities and services provided.

18. The delegation affirmed supporting the advancement of women in accordance with the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013–2022) and it was pointed out that women’ indicators rose through their assumption this year of four ministerial portfolios, their chairmanship of the Council of Representatives and the legislative authority since 2018, whilst representing 19% of the seats of the Shura and Representative Councils, 12% of judges, and their increased contribution to represent 56% of workers in the government sector, 35% in the private sector, 70% of students of higher education, 49% of academic positions, and ranking first globally in bridging the gender gap in enrolment in secondary and higher education according to the 2021 Davos Report, and through their presence in global forums by representing 33% of diplomats, and their membership in many UN committees and organisations.

19. The delegation provided information about adoption of the Law on Restorative Justice for Children and their Protection from Ill-Treatment of 2021 represented a qualitative leap in the care of children and their protection from exploitation or abuse, whether psychologically, physically, sexually or economically, through which a judicial committee and specialised courts for children were formed to ensure their privacy, and to abolish the criminal responsibility of children under the age of fifteen, whilst allowing the imposing of alternative sanctions or protective measures on the child as they are “at risk” in the event that they commit a felony or misdemeanour, ranging from reprimands to training, rehabilitation and educational programs or caring for him or her in a social welfare institution or hospital.

20. The delegation noted the follow-up of the “National Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” by sponsoring persons with disabilities integrating them into education in schools, universities, training and employment programs and the labour market.

21. The delegation referred to the continuous efforts and attention to the health, social and psychological well-being of the elderly, and the promotion of their value and status in society by enacting the Law on the Rights of the Elderly of 2009 and the National Strategy for the Elderly of 2012.

22. The Delegation affirmed the Kingdom’s keenness to take into account the environmental dimensions related to sustainable development, through its pledge before the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, and its support for the climate summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, and the continuation of its policy and projects in accordance with the new Law on the Environment of 2022, and Bahrain’s Economic Vision 2030 towards a healthy, safe and sustainable environment.

23. The delegation affirmed the importance of strengthening the coordination and partnership with the United Nations and its agencies in line with the “Strategic Cooperation and Sustainable Development Framework” signed between the two sides, and to continue the constructive cooperation with the Human Rights Council and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

24. It was referred that the Kingdom is working to host a United Nations Resident Coordinator for Human Rights on a permanent basis, and to present the second national report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals to the High-level Political Forum of the Economic and Social Council next June, as well as its pledge to deliver voluntary reports every two years, and to continue its commitment to submit periodic reports to the treaty committees.

25. The Delegation referred to the issuance of the first National Human Rights Plan (2022–2026), with its adoption by the Government in April 2021, and the follow-up of its implementation in partnership between national institutions, with the plan including 17 main goals, 34 sub-objectives and 102 projects, distributed over four themes that will promote Civil and Political Rights, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Rights of the Most Vulnerable Groups, and Solidarity Rights to achieve the desired goals, especially in the areas of legislation, institutional development, and capacity-building, with the plan including indicators to measure performance and the impact of implementation on the human rights reality in the country.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

26. During the interactive dialogue, 92 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.
27. The United States appreciated investigations of security forces for alleged human rights abuses and prosecutions of some of those found responsible while expressing concern about the lack of transparency surrounding such investigations. It also commended Bahrain for strengthening legal protections for children and juvenile offenders, and for its alternative sentencing initiatives.
28. Uruguay welcomed the delegation of Bahrain, and recognized the efforts made by the country, including through the National Human Rights Plan 2022–2026.
29. Uzbekistan welcomed Government efforts to support all segments of society during the Covid-19 pandemic, including promoting the rights to education, health and work. It also welcomed the adoption of a number of laws, aimed at strengthening human rights and democracy and the first National Human Rights Action Plan (2022–2026).
30. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela commended the important progress made in the right to health and regarding the empowerment of women.
31. Viet Nam commended Bahrain's commitment to promote and protect human rights, including the measures to address the Covid-19 pandemic.
32. Yemen highlighted Bahrain's promotion of infrastructure to protect human rights, including the National Human Rights Plan and new relevant legislations.
33. Algeria praised Bahrain's efforts to promote and protect economic and social rights, including human rights education and training programs.
34. Argentina congratulated Bahrain for its national report and for the efforts made towards the implementation of the recommendations.
35. Armenia noted the adoption of the Bahrain's National Plan and encouraged the Government for women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life.
36. Australia acknowledged the work of the independent ombudsman, National Institute for Human Rights, the adoption of a National Human Rights Plan, however remained concerned by reports of torture, enforced disappearance and abuse of detainees.
37. Austria expressed concern at the maintenance of the death penalty, the prosecution of human rights defenders including withdrawing their citizenship.
38. Azerbaijan positively noted the measures taken to implement the recommendations from the previous cycle UPR, including the adoption of the National Human Rights Plan (2022–2026) and new human rights legislations, as well as the signing of the Strategic Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development with United Nations agencies.
39. Bangladesh welcomed Bahrain's cooperation with the UN human rights mechanisms, including submission of various human rights treaty body reports. It also welcomed the adoption of Bahrain's National Human Rights Plan (2022–2026) and an initiative to implement human rights curricula in educational institutions and law enforcement personnel's training.
40. Belarus noted improvements regarding the human rights legislation, the protection of vulnerable groups and the cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.
41. Belgium expressed concern about resumption of executions despite 2010 de facto moratorium and the practice of revoking citizenship.
42. Botswana noted Bahrain's progress on previous recommendations and encouraged more implementation, especially to guarantee fundamental freedoms and fulfil women's rights.
43. Brazil welcomed measures taken but remained concerned about guarantees for the exercise of freedom of opinion and the high number of political prisoners.

44. Brunei commended Bahrain's efforts to improve human rights amidst the challenging Covid-19 pandemic.
45. Bulgaria commended Bahrain's National Human Rights Plan, the Women's Political Participation Programme, and establishing the National Committee for Childhood.
46. Cambodia recognised Bahrain's efforts towards legal reforms and other initiatives to fulfil its commitment to the international human rights obligations.
47. Canada notes that many recommendations accepted by Bahrain in previous iterations of its UPR have not been fully implemented.
48. Chile highlights the development of Bahraini Human Rights Plan and the measures developed to address the consequences of the pandemic.
49. China noted that Bahrain implemented the "2030 Economic Vision," improved people's living standards, promoted education fairness, effectively protected the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities, and combated human trafficking.
50. Costa Rica congratulated Bahrain for the presentation of its national report.
51. Côte d'Ivoire hailed the efforts to promote human rights, in particular the adoption of a national plan for human rights for 2022–2026.
52. Cuba recognized the efforts made in the implementation of the National Strategy for Children and for other initiatives on social protection.
53. Cyprus commended the adoption of a National Human Rights Plan, developments in juvenile justice, adoption of Decree No. 24 of 20221, and anti-human trafficking measures.
54. Czechia welcomed the adoption of Bahrain's National Plan for Human Rights, noted improvements in healthcare of detainees, juvenile justice, and efforts to combat religious discrimination.
55. Denmark commended Bahrain's efforts to address human rights, however remained concerned of the arbitrary arrests of citizens, and the undignified treatment of prisoners in Jau Prison.
56. Djibouti welcomed the creation in 2022 of a Ministry dedicated to sustainable development responsible for the integration of all public programs.
57. The delegation referred to the Higher Council of Women to ensure translating equality in reality partnering with all stakeholders and include it in the political strategy imposing equality commissions supervising and reporting on equality of chances and gender/wages parity within institutions. It also confirmed that the Ministry of Justice is the first and foremost guarantor of freedom of association and that no association can be closed without the authorization of the Ministry.
58. Egypt commended Bahrain's consolidating citizenship values, regulating family relations, and promoting rights of women, children, persons with disabilities, and expatriate workers.
59. Estonia applauded Bahrain for adopting a National Human Rights Plan and noted the attempts to eradicate religious discrimination and highlighted progress in the juvenile justice field.
60. Finland highly appreciated the engagement of Bahrain in the UPR process.
61. France commended the commitment of authorities illustrated in the concrete actions implemented, such as the use of alternative sentences to imprisonment.
62. Gabon commended the measures related to the fight against Covid-19 that allowed public life to continue without exceptional measures restricting travel.
63. Morocco expressed aspirations to consolidate the gains for the further maintenance of civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights.
64. Georgia welcomed the National Human Rights Plan (2022–2026), the establishment of the Ministry for sustainable development, the alignment of the 2030 Economic Vision with

the SDGs, and the commitment to submitting voluntary reports every two years to the UN human rights system.

65. Germany welcomed the development of restorative justice mechanisms and the active promotion of freedom of belief. It also expressed concern regarding the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, as well as the resuming use of the death penalty.

66. Ireland urged Bahrain to: uphold freedom of religion and belief for all persons, including members of the Shia community; and carry out independent and prompt investigations into all allegations of torture or other forms of ill-treatment and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice. It also regretted the reintroduction of the death penalty.

67. India appreciated the adoption of the National Human Rights Plan (2022–2026), the establishment of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, the signing of the Strategic Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development (2021–2022), as well as the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women and the National Committee for Childhood.

68. Indonesia welcomed Bahrain's enactment of its comprehensive module in addressing the Covid-19 pandemic.

69. The Islamic Republic of Iran made recommendations.

70. Iraq commended Bahrain's first national human rights plan and the establishment of a special prosecution for trafficking in persons.

71. Iceland commended Bahrain for the adoption of its first National Human Rights Plan (2022–2026).

72. Italy welcomed the adoption of the National Human Rights Plan 2022–2026 and the measures adopted aimed to increase women's empowerment.

73. Jordan appreciated Bahrain's new human rights legislations and protecting and promoting human rights during the Covid-19 pandemic.

74. Kazakhstan appreciated the progress made in the area of women's rights, the efforts to strengthen the independence of the Ombudsman's Office, and the adoption of the National Human Rights Plan (2022–2026).

75. Kuwait highlighted Bahrain's establishment of a national human rights institution and other specialised institutions and mechanisms related to human rights.

76. Kyrgyzstan welcomed the development of a legislative and institutional framework to promote and protect human rights, including the National Human Rights Plan (2022–2026), as well as efforts undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic.

77. Latvia welcomed the delegation of Bahrain to the UPR working group and thanked its presentation of its national report.

78. Lebanon commended the establishment of a Ministry of Sustainable Development whose main mission is to achieve the goals of 2030 Agenda.

79. Libya appreciated Bahrain's efforts to undertake constitutional and legislative reforms to protect and promote human rights.

80. Lithuania acknowledged the adoption of the National Human Rights Plan 2022–2026 but remained deeply concerned about the maintenance of the death penalty.

81. Luxembourg recognized the progress made in the field of women's rights and wished success in the implementation of the recommendations.

82. Malaysia commended Bahrain for its commitment made to realise the Sustainable Development Goals, including by establishing a Ministry of Sustainable Development.

83. The Maldives applauded Bahrain for the National Human Rights Plan 2022–2026 and the creation of the Ministry of Sustainable Development.

84. Mauritania noted with satisfaction the considerable efforts to combat human trafficking and the National Human Rights Plan 2022–2026.

85. Mauritius applauded Bahrain for amending the labour laws to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace.
86. Mexico thanked Bahrain for the presentation of its national report.
87. Montenegro acknowledged positive results in combatting trafficking in persons, but it was concerned about the restrictions imposed on some freedoms.
88. Gambia commended efforts in addressing the Covid-19 Pandemic and efforts in getting 84 percent of the total population vaccinated.
89. Namibia commended Bahrain for adoption of legislation aimed at protecting children from ill-treatment and for its advances on human rights.
90. Nepal appreciated the adoption of the National Human Rights Plan 2022–2026 and the efforts made to combat trafficking in persons.
91. The Netherlands remained concerned about reports of shrinking civil society space, but it welcomed measures taken to ensure protection against torture.
92. Nigeria commended the Government for its cooperation with human rights mechanisms and commitment to the implementation of previous recommendations.
93. The delegation indicated that the press law guaranteed the protection of all journalists, as it affirmed that “the opinion issued by a journalist or the correct information he publishes shall not be a reason for compromising his security.” this resulted in the absence of presentment of any journalist due to publishing issues.
94. The Penal Code also abolished the pretrial detention of the journalist, pending investigation, in any case, for the crimes stipulated in the Press Law, and replaced the word “discipline” with the word “accountability” in all articles of the law.
95. Norway commends Bahrain on the adoption of its first Human Rights Action Plan, however, remains concerned about the discrimination against women.
96. Oman appreciates Bahrain’s achievements in addressing the Covid-19 pandemic and adoption of the new national human rights plan.
97. Pakistan commended Bahrain’s commitment to strengthen national human rights frameworks through institutional, legislative and policy steps.
98. Panama welcomed the presentation of the national report.
99. The Philippines appreciated Bahrain’s ongoing labour reforms and sustained efforts to combat human trafficking, including through cooperation with bilateral partners. It also noted a major human rights trafficking case that it successfully worked together with Bahrain in 2020.
100. Poland expressed concern on acts of torture committed by law enforcement officials, freedom of conscience, rights to worship, human trafficking and forced labour.
101. Portugal noted with satisfaction the adoption of the National Human Rights Plan 2022–2026 and for efforts made by the National Human Rights Institution.
102. Saudi Arabia praised Bahrain’s new national human rights plan and the progress it made towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals.
103. Sierra Leone commends Bahrain for establishing the Private Sector Labour Code and specialised courts for children to ensure quality of proceedings for cases involving minors.
104. Singapore commended the National Human Rights Plan, the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women and measures to address the impact of the pandemic.
105. Slovenia recognized improvements regarding the rights of detainees, but expressed concerns about the increasing trend of death sentences in Bahrain.
106. Somalia commended measures to develop the legal framework especially the Act on Restorative Justice for Children and Their Protection from Ill-treatment.

107. South Sudan commended Bahrain for submitting the midterm report in 2019 on the implementation of the recommendations made during the third UPR cycle.
108. Spain welcomed the initiatives taken to promote religious pluralism in the country, as well as the improvements in prison legislation.
109. Sri Lanka commended the National Human Rights Plan, the enactment of legislation to promote women's rights, and measures to align national priorities with the SDGs.
110. State of Palestine noted the efforts to protect and promote human rights, including the adoption of the National Human Rights Plan for 2022–2026.
111. Sudan praised Bahrain's national human rights plan, the sustainable development plan, and the commitment to submit periodic human rights reports.
112. Switzerland welcomed the delegation of Bahrain.
113. Syrian Arab Republic noted efforts made to expand the programs dedicated to support, rehabilitate, and integrate persons with disabilities in public life.
114. Thailand acknowledged Bahrain's endeavours to promote and protect the rights of the child, while recognizing that more can be done in this field.
115. Tunisia appreciated achievements regarding promoting and protecting human rights since its last Universal Periodic Review reflecting its commitment to this mechanism.
116. Türkiye welcomed the National Human Rights Plan, the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women and the "Alternative Sanctions and Measures Law".
117. Turkmenistan commended, amongst others, actions taken by the National Committee for Childhood to promote the educational, cultural, and psychological development of children.
118. Ukraine commended Bahrain's success in the area of health and nutrition and encouraged it to continue progress in other important fields.
119. United Arab Emirates hailed the first national plan for human rights 2022–2026 realized in a participatory approach with national stakeholders and international organizations.
120. United Kingdom recognized progress made, including the development of bodies and legislation to safeguard rights and provide independent oversight of police behaviour and detention standards.
121. Tanzania commended its dedication to attain the SDGs, measures for the protection of persons with disabilities, and the enactment of laws in favor of women.
122. As for the children of a Bahraini woman married to a known foreigner who holds the nationality of his country, the delegation mentioned that they obtain the nationality of the father. Despite this, Bahrain has taken many legal measures in favour of the children of a Bahraini woman married to a foreigner to treat them like a citizen in terms of fees for government health and education services and fees residency, and benefit from social security and social assistance as a citizen, as well as benefit from the services provided by the alimony fund in the event of divorce, and university tuition fees.
123. The head of delegation expressed warm thanks to the OHCHR, the Troika, as well as all the participating countries with their constructive comments. The delegation affirmed that all comments, recommendations and questions will be given due concern by Bahrain involving all concerned stakeholders, so to have common-ground position. Reiterating thanks to the UPR working group, the delegation reaffirmed its commitment and continuous collaboration with the UPR mechanism as it is one of the most successful, transparent and participatory mechanism guaranteeing effective support of the Human Rights worldwide.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

124.1 Consider the ratification of the core United Nations human rights treaties to which it is not yet party (Chile) (State of Palestine) (Turkmenistan);

124.2 Joining, ratifying and ensuring effective implementation of main international human rights related instruments, in line with the country's international human rights commitments (Ukraine);

124.3 Ratify the core United Nations human rights treaties, to which it is not yet a party (Iran (Islamic Republic of));

124.4 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Estonia) (Finland); as previously recommended (Uruguay);

124.5 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty; as well as suspend the application of death sentences (Mexico); Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and announce a moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to its eventual abolition (Ireland); Commute all death sentences, re-establish a moratorium on the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Portugal);

124.6 Consider declaring an official moratorium on executions with a view to the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and the abolishment of the death penalty (Lithuania); Consider ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Armenia);

124.7 Immediately restore a moratorium on the use of the death penalty and accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Luxembourg); Establish a moratorium on death penalty with a view to its eventual abolition and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Latvia);

124.8 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the Arms Trade Treaty (Panama);

124.9 Declare an official moratorium on executions with a view to the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the abolishment of the death penalty (Austria);

124.10 Ratify the optional protocol to the convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Côte d'Ivoire);

124.11 Adopt the necessary measures for the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);

124.12 Ratify the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity, as previously recommended (Armenia);

- 124.13 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Botswana);**
- 124.14 **Ratify/accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile) (Czechia) (Denmark) (Estonia) (Finland) (Lithuania) (Nigeria);**
- 124.15 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Armenia) (Czechia) (Lithuania);**
- 124.16 **Work towards the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Georgia); Intensify efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Maldives); Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Mauritius);**
- 124.17 **Take measures to further limit all forms of torture – including ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment – and ensure full accountability for violations and abuses (Italy);**
- 124.18 **Consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers (Chile) (Philippines);**
- 124.19 **Consider ratifying the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) of the International Labour Organization (Philippines);**
- 124.20 **Implement measures against torture and violence, especially towards vulnerable populations, including the LGTBI population, people with disabilities, minorities, migrants and refugees, and human rights defenders. In this regard, we recommend the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Costa Rica);**
- 124.21 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Estonia); Ratify and fully align its national legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Latvia);**
- 124.22 **Consider ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Mauritius);**
- 124.23 **Continue enhancing its frameworks for the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of migrant workers, especially women and household service workers (Philippines);**
- 124.24 **Continue the efforts made in the education sector, especially those related to considering the possibility of ratifying the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education 1960 (Saudi Arabia);**
- 124.25 **Withdraw all reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Namibia);**
- 124.26 **Withdraw reservations to Articles 2, 9, 15, 16 and 29 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and ratify its Optional Protocol (Iceland);**
- 124.27 **Work on making amendments to the Press and Electronic Media Law in line with international standards and agreements ratified and joined by the Kingdom of Bahrain (Kuwait);**
- 124.28 **Extend a standing invitation to all special procedures as soon as possible, including to the Special Rapporteur on Torture, and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (Netherlands);**

- 124.29 **Extend an open and standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders of the human rights council (Czechia) (Finland);**
- 124.30 **Consider issuing a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Kazakhstan);**
- 124.31 **Accept pending visit requests from the Special Procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, and to consider extending a standing invitation to them (Latvia)**
- 124.32 **Accept requests for visits submitted by Special Procedures mandate holders (Luxembourg);**
- 124.33 **Allow requested visits by mandate holders, particularly the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Montenegro);**
- 124.34 **Further enhance its cooperation with the Special Procedures mandates holders (Mauritius);**
- 124.35 **Collaborate with the United Nations special procedures and accept requests for visits from the special rapporteurs on torture and on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (Switzerland);**
- 124.36 **Strengthen further cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms to successfully implement the National Human Rights Plan (Turkmenistan);**
- 124.37 **Continue those efforts in protecting human rights, especially through legislative reform programs and accession to international conventions (Sudan);**
- 124.38 **Continue to activate the new legislation issued in the field of human rights, especially the law on justice and reform (Jordan);**
- 124.39 **Align national legislation with international standards, enabling members of the opposition, as well as political societies, journalists and human rights defenders, to exercise these rights (Spain);**
- 124.40 **Consider the possibility of adopting laws promoting the strengthening of civil society organizations (Mauritania);**
- 124.41 **Develop the capacities of civil society institutions to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights (Egypt) (Kuwait);**
- 124.42 **Create and maintain a safe and enabling environment for civil society organizations and human rights defenders, including child human rights defenders (Ireland);**
- 124.43 **Intensify training programs aimed at educating, raising awareness and strengthen the capabilities of national cadres in the field of human rights (Syrian Arab Republic);**
- 124.44 **Continue to raise awareness of human rights among all groups, particularly the younger generations, through education and public trainings (Turkmenistan);**
- 124.45 **Expand human rights education and awareness programs to target more public servants (Algeria);**
- 124.46 **Continue developing laws and improving procedures and practices to guarantee human rights in accordance with the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry, and in accordance with the reform approach taken by the Kingdom of Bahrain (Oman);**
- 124.47 **Ensure the effective implementation of the National Action Plan and recommendations of the UN treaty bodies (Uzbekistan);**
- 124.48 **Continue efforts to strengthen the role of national human rights mechanisms and to implement the projects contained in the National Human**

Rights Plan, which aim to maintain and respect human rights at all levels in Bahrain (Yemen);

124.49 **Speedily and effectively implement the ten voluntary commitments made in its National Human Rights Plan for 2022–26 (Austria);**

124.50 **Implement the National Human Rights Plan (2022–2026) effectively, which included cross-cutting human rights issues in order to achieve the main objectives set therein (Azerbaijan);**

124.51 **Continue implementing the policies and programmes contained in the Bahrain economic vision 2030, in accordance with UN sustainable development goals as well as the national human rights plan (2022–2026) (Somalia);**

124.52 **Continue advancing in the effective implementation of the National Human Rights Plan 2022–2026, prioritizing the axes of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, as well as attention to groups in situations of vulnerability (Cuba);**

124.53 **Continue the implementation of the National Human Rights Plan in order to further improve the human rights protection system (Belarus);**

124.54 **Strengthen the right to freedom of expression and take measures to implement the commitments contained in the National Action Plan for Human Rights (2022–2026) (France);**

124.55 **Continue to implement its National Human Rights Plan (Singapore);**

124.56 **Consider further strengthening the National Human Rights Institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (India);**

124.57 **Support and strengthen the independence of its national human rights institution to ensure compliance with the Paris Principles (Gambia);**

124.58 **Exerting more efforts to ensure that the National Human Rights Institution complies with the Paris Principles and to enable it to carry out its tasks effectively and independently (State of Palestine);**

124.59 **Take all necessary measures to strengthen the National Human Rights Institution within the framework of the Paris Principles (Uzbekistan);**

124.60 **Take further measures to strengthen the independence and capacity of the National Human Rights Institution and achieve its full compliance with the Paris Principles (Bulgaria);**

124.61 **While noting the existence of a National Human Rights Institution partially compliant with the Paris Principles, establish an independent National Human Rights Institution fully compliant with the Paris Principles (Finland);**

124.62 **Strengthen the Special Investigations Unit and the Ombudsman of the Ministry of Interior to allow these institutions to fulfill their mandates in an effective, independent, and impartial manner (Canada);**

124.63 **Consider establishing a national ombudsman mechanism for reporting and follow-up on rights of the child (Poland);**

124.64 **Advance comprehensive legislation against discrimination in all areas, defining the grounds for discrimination and providing effective remedies for victims of discrimination (Chile);**

124.65 **Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and a policy framework to ensure full and effective protection from discrimination in all spheres and providing remedies for victims of discrimination (Bulgaria);**

124.66 **Put in place anti-discrimination legislation covering all grounds of discrimination, including those based on religion, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation (Luxembourg);**

- 124.67 End targeted discrimination, arbitrary arrests and deprivation of citizenship of Shia Muslims (Iran (Islamic Republic of));
- 124.68 Ensure that everyone is able to exercise their right to take part in cultural and religious life without discrimination or undue restrictions (Iran (Islamic Republic of));
- 124.69 Include in national legislation a provision that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and repeal provisions that criminalize consensual sexual relations between persons of the same sex, in particular articles 326, 346 and 350 of the Penal Code (Mexico);
- 124.70 Abolish the death penalty (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 124.71 Abolish the use of death penalty and as a first step to immediately establish an official moratorium on executions (Finland);
- 124.72 Abolish or adopt an official moratorium on the death penalty and replace it with other punishment measures in line with international human rights obligations (Brazil);
- 124.73 Immediately implement a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view of its abolition (Australia);
- 124.74 Make efforts to restore the de facto moratorium on the death penalty with prospects for its abolition (Chile);
- 124.75 Establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition (Costa Rica);
- 124.76 Abolish the death penalty and reinstate an immediate moratorium on executions (Iceland);
- 124.77 Return to a de facto moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Germany);
- 124.78 Reinstate moratorium on the death penalty (Poland); Reinstate the moratorium on the death penalty and consider pardoning those currently on a death row (Montenegro); Reinstate the de-facto moratorium on the death penalty and commute all death sentences (Namibia);
- 124.79 Reinstate immediately a full moratorium on the use of the death penalty, as recommended by its own National Institute for Human Rights (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 124.80 Consider reinstating a moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Cyprus);
- 124.81 Consider adopting a de jure moratorium of capital executions with a view to fully abolish the death penalty for all crimes (Italy);
- 124.82 Commute all death sentences, declares a moratorium on the use of death penalty, and moves towards abolition of the death penalty (Norway);
- 124.83 Take steps to abolish the death penalty including by reinstating the moratorium (Czechia);
- 124.84 Declare an immediate official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Canada);
- 124.85 Promptly restore a moratorium on the death penalty and consider pardoning all those on death row and suspending and commuting their sentences (Argentina);
- 124.86 Establish a moratorium on the application of the death penalty, which has not been applied for three years, with a view to abolishing the death penalty for all offences (France);

- 124.87 **Abolish the death penalty for drug crimes, treason, and high treason (Sierra Leone);**
- 124.88 **Ensure that the death penalty is not under any circumstances imposed in violation of the guarantees provided for in Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Belgium);**
- 124.89 **Reduce the number of crimes punishable by death and limit them to the most serious crimes, in accordance with article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Switzerland);**
- 124.90 **Implement a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, refraining from its application for potential pending cases, as a preliminary step towards its full abolition (Spain);**
- 124.91 **Comply with the Convention against Torture including by ensuring all detainees are fully protected against torture and other cruel inhumane or degrading treatment (Australia);**
- 124.92 **Implement recommendations on the use of torture, the fight against impunity and the judiciary safeguards for fair trial rights (Slovenia);**
- 124.93 **Continue efforts in improving prison conditions and treatment of people in detention involving also possible bilateral and international cooperation (Indonesia);**
- 124.94 **Release all arbitrarily detained persons in Bahrain including the Danish-Bahraini citizen Mr. Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja imprisoned for more than 11 years; A victim of torture who needs treatment and rehabilitation (Denmark);**
- 124.95 **Implement fully recommendations made by the United Nations mandate holders regarding the immediate release of all political prisoners (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**
- 124.96 **Pursue the changes initiated with regard to the situation in prisons, particularly those concerning minors and those aimed at facilitating and improving access to care for all prisoners. Generalize the use of alternative penalties to imprisonment (France);**
- 124.97 **Continue the process of capacity building in terms of law enforcement, the rule of law and restorative justice (Mauritania);**
- 124.98 **Continuing to build the capacities of law enforcement personnel of both sexes on how to deal with accused and convicted persons (Tunisia);**
- 124.99 **Harmonize fully its legislation and practices to combat terrorism and extremism with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including by amending the Act on the Protection of Society against Terrorist Acts, and ensuring that all criminal proceedings for terrorist acts respect the rights to a fair trial and access to justice (Panama);**
- 124.100 **Review the Law for the Protection of Society against Terrorist Acts to ensure that it complies with international human rights obligations; and that no provision contravenes the exercise of fundamental freedoms in detriment of the work of human rights defenders (Mexico);**
- 124.101 **Stop the persecution under extensive anti-terrorism laws of human rights defenders, journalists and civil society organizations for exercising their fundamental rights (Czechia);**
- 124.102 **Further strengthen efforts to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations (Somalia);**
- 124.103 **Engage in a genuine national dialogue in an open and inclusive manner with all stakeholders (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**
- 124.104 **Investigate all allegations of torture and ensures prosecution of those responsible (Norway);**

- 124.105 Investigate all allegations of acts of torture and ill-treatment committed in the context of criminal investigations to obtain confessions and take measures to prevent these acts and end their impunity (Luxembourg);
- 124.106 Investigate all cases of torture and ill-treatment in detention by public officials and strengthening measures to prevent those acts (Poland);
- 124.107 Ensure that perpetrators identified in the course of fully impartial and effective investigations into torture and ill-treatment are prosecuted (Austria);
- 124.108 Conduct impartial, thorough and effective investigations into all cases of attacks, harassment and intimidation against civil society activists, Human Rights Defenders, journalists and media workers (Estonia);
- 124.109 Scale up efforts and commitments in upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms (Nigeria);
- 124.110 Continue to enhance the promotion of interfaith dialogue and religious tolerance (Indonesia);
- 124.111 Ensure the equal rights of all persons to freedom of religion (Iran (Islamic Republic of));
- 124.112 Expedite the formulation of national plan to consolidate the values and principles of religious tolerance and peaceful coexistence among the religions to enhance national unity (Botswana);
- 124.113 Continue to take measures to restore damaged religious sites (Iran (Islamic Republic of));
- 124.114 Amend legislation with a view to lifting restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression and to freedom of peaceful assembly (Canada);
- 124.115 Remove restrictions on peaceful assembly and association by eliminating the continuing prohibition on public demonstrations and allowing political societies to engage in meetings without restriction (United States of America);
- 124.116 Continue to promote freedom of opinion and expression, by working to make appropriate amendments to the Press and Electronic Media Law in line with international standards and conventions ratified or acceded to by the Kingdom of Bahrain (Morocco);
- 124.117 Uphold the rights of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly including by ending detention of people for expressing views critical of the government and ending the ban on protest (Australia);
- 124.118 Fully respect the freedoms of expression, association, religion or belief of all people, without discrimination (Costa Rica);
- 124.119 Allow all citizens to freely exercise their right to freedom of expression, association and assembly without restrictions (Czechia);
- 124.120 Amend the provisions in Decree Law No. 47 that criminalize defamation, blasphemy and criticizing public officials and promulgate a new media law that fully enshrines the right to freedom of expression (Belgium);
- 124.121 Continue to consolidate the culture of tolerance and peaceful coexistence and continuing to promote national harmony and unity (United Arab Emirates);
- 124.122 Continue to consolidate the culture of tolerance and peaceful coexistence and enhancing national harmony and unity, by reviewing laws and decisions related to freedom of religion and belief and proposing appropriate amendments to develop them (Morocco);

- 124.123 **Reduce restrictions on peaceful assembly and association and protect the rights to freedom of opinion and expression as well as freedom of assembly in accordance with international obligations (Germany);**
- 124.124 **Release all persons detained solely for the exercise of their right of freedom of expression and their right to peaceful assembly and repeal all legislative provisions criminalizing the exercise of these rights (United States of America);**
- 124.125 **Immediately release all opposition activists, journalists, human rights defenders and other individuals arbitrarily arrested, including for exercising their right to freedom of expression or association (Ireland);**
- 124.126 **Release all individuals, including human rights defenders, who have been imprisoned for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, and reinstates Bahraini citizenship to all individuals whose citizenship has been revoked as a reprisal for human rights activities (Norway);**
- 124.127 **Continue efforts aimed at creating a safer and enabling environment for increasing levels of freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly (Italy);**
- 124.128 **Promote and protect the right to freedom of assembly, freedom of expression and media freedom, as well as the safety of journalists (Latvia);**
- 124.129 **Investigate promptly, thoroughly and impartially all allegations against human rights defenders and journalists imprisoned due to the exercise of their rights to freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association (Lithuania);**
- 124.130 **Guarantee all citizens and political parties the right to participate in public affairs and in political life (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**
- 124.131 **Reinstate political associations and create equal opportunities for political participation, allowing the exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly (Netherlands);**
- 124.132 **Design effective mechanisms to guarantee the protection of human rights defenders, non-governmental organizations and journalists, so that they can carry out their functions without fear of acts of intimidation or reprisals (Uruguay);**
- 124.133 **Reform laws that regulate publishing in print and online, in order to ensure freedom of expression for independent media and all citizens (Norway);**
- 124.134 **Revise the Press, Printing and Publication Act to ensure the protection of freedom of expression, online and offline, in line with target 16.10 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Switzerland);**
- 124.135 **Move quickly to pass the much-delayed Journalism and E-Media Law, to ensure stronger protections for journalists and to enhance wider media freedoms (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 124.136 **Take the upcoming elections as an opportunity to further enhance human rights of all segments of the society (Türkiye);**
- 124.137 **Adopt appropriate measures to ensure the protection of human rights defenders, journalists and political opponents against acts of intimidation and reprisals (Luxembourg);**
- 124.138 **Strengthen its efforts to combat, prevent, eradicate and punish practices of human trafficking and forced labour against all persons (Gambia);**
- 124.139 **Strengthen further efforts to combat, prevent and eradicate forced labour and trafficking in persons (Sri Lanka);**

- 124.140 Strengthening efforts to combat human trafficking and ensuring that all cases are investigated (State of Palestine);
- 124.141 Continue strengthening Bahrain's efforts addressing the crime of trafficking in persons (Kyrgyzstan);
- 124.142 Pursue the efforts undertaken in the fight against human trafficking and the effective protection of workers, including migrants (France);
- 124.143 Amend the Labour Law to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or age (Iceland);
- 124.144 Review the labor law to ensure equal protection for domestic workers and fully integrate them into the Private Sector Labour Code (Act No. 36 of 2012), as well as in the Decree No. 59 of 2018 on discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace (Switzerland);
- 124.145 Continuing to take the necessary measures to protect vulnerable groups in the labour market and to provide them with adequate care (Tunisia);
- 124.146 Continue strengthening its social programmes in favor of its people (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 124.147 Continue to strengthen the social security system (China);
- 124.148 Continue to implement the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030, promote sustainable economic and social development, so as to provide a more solid foundation for people to enjoy all human rights (China);
- 124.149 Implement more measures including allocation of more human, technical and financial resources to the health sector for further promotion of the right to health of the people (Viet Nam);
- 124.150 Continue with policy and legislative measures for promoting gender equality and combatting gender-based violence, including by ensuring access to safe reproductive health services (India);
- 124.151 Decriminalize abortion and ensure protection and services for victims of sexual and gender-based violence (Iceland);
- 124.152 Develop and implement a national programme to provide access for persons most at risk of or affected by HIV, including migrant and domestic workers, to quality, affordable and rights-based prevention, testing, treatment and support services and to combat stigma and discrimination in this regard (Portugal);
- 124.153 Continue to strengthen its efforts to support its society in pandemic recovery (Singapore);
- 124.154 Strengthen its efforts to promote full access to education (Georgia);
- 124.155 Ensure the continuity of the right to basic education for all (Kyrgyzstan);
- 124.156 Continue to advance the right to education including non-discriminatory access to education through appropriate laws, policies and programs (Sri Lanka);
- 124.157 Further strengthen strategies for the achievement of greater access to higher education, especially for persons with disabilities (Brunei Darussalam);
- 124.158 Ensure the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream schools and to continue to give priority to measures facilitating their full inclusion (Gambia);
- 124.159 Redoubling efforts to develop and promote vocational training to enhance the skills of children, especially those who drop out of school in the rural areas (South Sudan);

- 124.160 Organize campaigns and educational programmes, to raise awareness of the importance of cultural heritage in all its diversity (Cyprus);
- 124.161 Integrate a rights-based approach in climate mitigation policy and disaster risk reduction plans (Cyprus);
- 124.162 Continue reinforcing its successful policies in the field of gender equality (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 124.163 Continue its efforts to promote the principle of equality of opportunity and gender balance in work, society, and the public sector (Singapore);
- 124.164 Strengthen measures to ensure gender equality and repeal all discriminatory provisions against women and girls (Czechia);
- 124.165 Strengthen the processes of empowerment and autonomy of women and girls through a normative framework that allows them to enjoy all their human rights, including education, the right to health in all its dimensions, the safe exercise of freedom of expression, a life free from violence of any kind, and their participation in the different decision-making processes in the political, civil, economic, social and environmental spheres (Costa Rica);
- 124.166 Incorporate in their plans and policies measures that aim to achieve gender equity in the public and private spheres, including the participation of women in leadership positions (Chile);
- 124.167 Step up its efforts to strengthen policies and programmes for empowerment of women in accordance with its socio-cultural ethos (Bangladesh);
- 124.168 Strengthen the policy of access for girls and women to education at all of its levels (Algeria);
- 124.169 Improve further national legislation in order to ensure gender balance, guarantee equal opportunities and take into account the needs of women in all areas of activity, including within the framework of the next National Plan for the Advancement of Women for 2023-2030, which is planned to be developed (Belarus);
- 124.170 Repeal all discriminatory provisions against women in the legislation, including on the freedom of movement, on the right to transmit nationality, to divorce and to inherit, in order to ensure gender equality (Belgium);
- 124.171 Continue enhancing programmes on the economic participation of women and youth (Brunei Darussalam);
- 124.172 Building on the results achieved in implementing the national plan for the advancement of women for the period 2013–2022, in order to prepare a new plan for the coming period (Lebanon);
- 124.173 Development of the next phase of the National Plan 2023–2030 to ensure that the needs of women are integrated in the development programs and hence promote the advancement of women (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 124.174 Continue taking measures to enhance women’s participation in public life, and align the programs of this plan with the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women and the strategies, frameworks, programs and initiatives emanating from it (United Arab Emirates);
- 124.175 Consider taking additional steps to increase women’s representations at the decision-making levels (Cambodia);
- 124.176 Raise awareness about the importance of equal participation of women and men in public and political life and undertake apt steps towards this end (Cyprus);
- 124.177 Continue its efforts to finalize the implementation of the national plan for the advancement of women (Gabon);

- 124.178 Redouble efforts to achieve equitable representation of women in public and political spheres, particularly in decision-making positions (Gabon);
- 124.179 Continue to take measures to enhance the participation of women in political and public life (Iraq);
- 124.180 Continue efforts to enhance participation of women in political and public life (Nepal);
- 124.181 Redouble efforts to enhance gender equality and women representation in public and political spheres (Indonesia);
- 124.182 Increase the number of women in political and public life at all levels and in all areas and promote women in leadership positions (Kazakhstan);
- 124.183 Pursue efforts to promote the policy of eliminating inequalities between men and women by taking effective measures to increase the participation of women in political and public life (Djibouti);
- 124.184 Reform and unify the Family Law to ensure equality and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women in law and in practice (Iceland);
- 124.185 Continue to follow up on the national plan for the advancement of Bahraini women to ensure the achievement of its objectives of empowering women (Jordan);
- 124.186 Take all necessary measures, both in law and in practice, to ensure gender equality and eliminate any form of discrimination against women, including by ensuring equal rights between the two spouses (Latvia);
- 124.187 Work to strengthen gender equality procedures in access to adequate housing (Malaysia);
- 124.188 Continue to empower women in the labour market, economically, politically, and socially, and to allow them to effectively participate in the various work sectors (South Sudan);
- 124.189 Expand women's development portfolio for commercial activities, especially in small and medium-sized enterprises (Pakistan);
- 124.190 Continue to implement legislation that protects women in their work place and at home, and provide effective tools to overcome the obstacles that still exist for their full legal integration (Spain);
- 124.191 Repeal articles 334 and 353 of the Penal Code that perpetuate violence and discrimination against women, as well as criminalize sexual violence and marital rape as specific crimes, establishing adequate sanctions and guaranteeing that no exception or mediation is applied in these cases (Mexico);
- 124.192 Repeal Article 353 of the Penal Code and criminalize marital rape (Iceland);
- 124.193 Criminalize marital rape (Latvia);
- 124.194 Define sexual violence and marital rape as criminal offenses in the criminal code (Sierra Leone);
- 124.195 Criminalize all forms of violence against women and include domestic violence, including sexual violence and marital rape, as a specific crime in its Penal Code, assigning appropriate sanctions (Argentina);
- 124.196 Criminalize all forms of violence against women and include domestic violence, sexual violence and marital rape as specific criminal offences in its Criminal Code, assigning appropriate sanctions (Panama);
- 124.197 Continue intensifying efforts to eliminate violence against women (Cambodia);

- 124.198 Continue its work in order to combat violence against women (Georgia);
- 124.199 Improve further policies and measures to better protect the rights of women and children (China);
- 124.200 Continue to reinforce mechanisms to safeguard rights of children (Pakistan);
- 124.201 Criminalize child marriage and raise the marital age for girls to 18 years (Iceland);
- 124.202 Continue to support initiatives for developing children's abilities and skills (India);
- 124.203 Continue to support projects related to children and the development of their capabilities (Libya);
- 124.204 Continue to support projects related to childhood and the development of abilities and skills in children (Malaysia);
- 124.205 Continue to support the National Committee for Childhood to carry out its work aimed at developing childhood at all stages of life, educationally, culturally and psychologically (Oman);
- 124.206 Strengthen the rights of children by effective implementation of the newly adopted law on Restorative Justice for Children and Their Protection From Ill-Treatment (Türkiye);
- 124.207 Continue implementing initiatives that improve the services to the elderly (Kyrgyzstan);
- 124.208 Continue efforts to promote a human rights-based approach to disability (Maldives);
- 124.209 Continue strengthening the legal framework and public policies to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities, including their access to food, medical care and social security (Cuba);
- 124.210 Continue to strengthen the policies and regulations concerned with ensuring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Saudi Arabia);
- 124.211 Pursue the efforts exerted in the framework of protecting people with special needs and ensuring their integration into society (Lebanon);
- 124.212 Continue the efforts to protect persons with disabilities, especially those related to their inclusion in schools (Algeria);
- 124.213 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);
- 124.214 Intensify its efforts to enhance the enjoyment of human rights of women, children and persons with disabilities by implementing relevant legislative and policy measures (Azerbaijan);
- 124.215 Continue to promote incorporation of persons with disabilities who seek employment into diverse sectors of the labour market (Bulgaria);
- 124.216 Continue the efforts to integrate people with disabilities into the labor market and provide them with the necessary skills (Libya);
- 124.217 Continuing inclusion of the category of persons with disabilities in the labour market and providing them with appropriate job opportunities (Tunisia);
- 124.218 Sustain and expand programmes that aim to protect children, especially those with special needs and disabilities from all forms of abuse and ill-treatment (Philippines);

- 124.219 Increase the human and financial resources allocated to the High Committee for the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities to enable it to carry out optimally the tasks entrusted to it (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 124.220 Strengthen measures to protect and ensure the rights of migrant workers (Indonesia);
- 124.221 Strengthen measures to ensure safety, security and dignity of migrant workers, including domestic workers (Nepal);
- 124.222 Further strengthen protection and rights of migrant workers (Pakistan);
- 124.223 Continue its efforts to promote and protect the rights of migrant workers, particularly women migrant workers with a view to protecting them from all forms of exploitation and ill-treatment (Viet Nam);
- 124.224 Continue efforts to promote the rights of vulnerable groups, including contractual workers (Oman);
- 124.225 Continue to protect the rights of foreign workers, particularly female migrant workers to ensure equal treatment for them (Bangladesh);
- 124.226 Strengthen anti-discrimination legislation to ensure that foreign nationals, particularly migrant workers, are treated equally before the law (Germany);
- 124.227 Continue to strengthen labour law protection for migrant workers and provide enhanced access to effective legal remedies (Sri Lanka);
- 124.228 Continue the efforts to ensure the safety, security and dignity of foreign workers, including domestic workers (Egypt);
- 124.229 Continue the efforts to ensure the safety, security and dignity of foreign workers, including domestic workers (Iraq);
- 124.230 Continue strengthening protection for migrant workers, including by establishing a non-discriminatory national minimum wage, and through the enforcement of labour laws and regulations to prevent exploitation and abuse (Thailand);
- 124.231 Promote further the development of children at all ages, with special attention on children of migrant workers, stateless children and children of Bahraini women married to foreigners, by ensuring their access to primary and secondary education, health care, and other necessary social services (Thailand);
- 124.232 Enable women to transfer nationality to their children without restriction and on equal basis to men (Lithuania);
- 124.233 Take steps to end discrimination against women, including allowing Bahraini women to transfer their Bahraini citizenship to their children (Norway);
- 124.234 Amend legislation so as to allow Bahraini women to pass on their nationality to their children (Cyprus);
- 124.235 Amend the Citizenship Law of 1963 prohibiting the passage of citizenship from a woman to her child (Sierra Leone);
- 124.236 Amend the 1963 Citizenship Law, by allowing the passage of citizenship from women to her child, while introducing legislation to protect and guarantee the rights of stateless children (Brazil);
- 124.237 Amend the Bahraini Citizenship Act to grant citizenship to the children of Bahraini women married to non-Bahraini men (United States of America);
- 124.238 Amend and harmonize laws and policies to ensure Bahraini women to pass citizenship to their children (Slovenia);

124.239 **Amend the Bahraini Citizenship Act and other relevant legislation to allow women to transfer Bahraini nationality to their children without restriction and on an equal basis with men (Canada);**

124.240 **Amend its nationality laws so that Bahraini women married to foreigners can transmit Bahraini citizenship to their children (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

124.241 **Implement all necessary legislative and administrative measures to allow Bahraini women married to foreigners to transfer their nationality to their children without restriction (Uruguay);**

124.242 **Provide legal guarantees to stateless persons to obtain Bahraini nationality, including the adoption of laws that allow women to transmit nationality to their children (Costa Rica);**

124.243 **Amend its legislation and adopt all necessary legal and practical measures to prevent and reduce statelessness of citizens (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

124.244 **Put in place and strengthen mechanisms combatting and preventing discrimination against girls, children with disabilities, children born to a foreign or stateless fathers and all the vulnerable children from minority groups to avoid marginalization (Gambia);**

124.245 **Recognize in law the right to education and guarantee free-of-charge and non-discriminatory access to primary and secondary education, including to girls and to children of migrant and domestic workers and to stateless children (Portugal).**

125. **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.**

III. Voluntary pledges and commitments

126. Work on completing the implementation of the projects of the National Human Rights Plan for the years (2022–2026), which includes 102 projects that further develop ongoing human rights efforts at all levels in the Kingdom.

127. Commitment to submit voluntary reports every two years to benefit from observations as part of Bahrain's ongoing efforts to enhance its human rights system.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Bahrain was headed by His Excellency Dr. Abdullatif Rashed Alzayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs and composed of the following members:

- H.E Dr.Yusuf Abdulkarim Bucheeri, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Bahrain to The United Nations – Geneva;
- Mr. Ahmed Mahdi Al-Haddad, Chairman of the Human Rights Committee of the Shura Council (Head of International and Arab Relations);
- Dr.Waleed Khalifa Almana, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health;
- Ms. Ghada Hamid Habib, Ombudsman General;
- Brigadier General Hamoud Saad Hamoud, Assistant Undersecretary for Legal Affairs – Ministry Of Interior;
- H.E. Ambassador Talal Abdulsalam Al Ansari, Director General – Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr.Hamad Ali Al-Mannai, Advisor of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Political Affairs;
- Chancellor Sheikha Mariam bint Abdulwahab Al Khalifa, Vice Chairman of the Authority – Legislation & Legal Opinion Commission;
- Dr. Arwa Hassan Al-Sayed, Head of Human Rights Sector-Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr.Abdullah Ahmed Al Mutawa, Director of the Department of Ministerial Committee Affairs – Ministry Of Interior;
- Mr.Saeed Abdulkhalik Saeed, Director of the Minister office – Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Ezzedine Khalil Moayad, Advisor for the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Women;
- Mr. Abdullah Issa Al-Dosari – Chief Prosecutor, Head of the Office of International Cooperation and Human Rights – Public Prosecution;
- Mr. Mohammed Khalid Al-Hazza – Chief Prosecutor, Acting Attorney General Head of the Special Investigation Unit;
- Ms. Shirin Khalil Al-Saati, Director of Grievances and Protection Department – Labour Market Regulatory Authority;
- Sheikha Dr. Noura bint Khalifa Al Khalifa, Adviser – Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf;
- Mrs. Noura Abdulaziz Al-Rifai, Head of Local and International Cooperation-Supreme Council for Women;
- Mr.Hasan Moussa Shafaei, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of The Kingdom of Bahrain to The United Nations – Geneva;
- Mrs.Maryam Adel AlMannaei, Acting Chief of Communications – Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms.Fatima Ebrahim Aldosari, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of The Kingdom of Bahrain to The United Nations – Geneva;
- Ms.Noora Isa Mubarak, Legal Consultant – Labour Market Regulatory Authority;
- Mrs.Amina Hassan Mohamed Hassan, Legal researcher – Ministry of the Interior

- Mrs.Sara Ahmad Alahjeri, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of The Kingdom of Bahrain to The United Nations – Geneva;
 - Mrs.Noora Adnan Almannaei, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of The Kingdom of Bahrain to The United Nations – Geneva;
 - Sheikha Latifah Ahmed Mohamed Hamad Al Khalifa, Third Secretary, Department of GCC Affairs – Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Ms.Hessa Malalla Alhammadi, Diplomatic Attache, Department of Human Rights – Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
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