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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Papua New Guinea

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-ninth session from 1 to 12 November 2021. The review of Papua New Guinea was held at the 6th meeting, on 4 November 2021. The delegation of Papua New Guinea was headed by the Acting Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Elias Wohengu. At its 12th meeting, held on 9 November 2021, the Working Group adopted the report on Papua New Guinea.
2. On 12 January 2021, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Papua New Guinea: Eritrea, Fiji and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).
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 Papua New Guinea:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);¹
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);²
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).³
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Canada, Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama, Slovenia, the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay was transmitted to Papua New Guinea through the troika. The questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Papua New Guinea welcomed the interest shown by the Human Rights Council, States and stakeholders, including civil society, on the human rights issues in Papua New Guinea since its review during the previous cycle of the universal periodic review process, in May 2016.^f
6. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had severely affected the national, regional and global socioeconomic, political and environmental landscapes and development aspirations, and measures for combating it had had serious ramifications for human rights, such as the rights to freedom of movement, freedom of choice and freedom of association and the right to life. The pandemic had also underscored the importance of safeguarding human rights and dignity for all without distinction on the basis of race, sex or opinion.
7. The pandemic had also highlighted the importance of working together as partners at all levels, and in a sustained way, to confront the various human rights issues.
8. It was against that backdrop, and also bearing in mind the foundational building blocks, including the Constitution of Papua New Guinea and the existing international and domestic human rights frameworks, commitments and obligations and development priorities, that the delegation was presenting its report.
9. On the rights of persons with disabilities, subsequent to the ratification by Papua New Guinea of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in 2013, the national policy on disability, 2015–2025, had been established. The overall aim of the national policy

¹ [A/HRC/WG.6/39/PNG/1](#).

² [A/HRC/WG.6/39/PNG/2](#).

³ [A/HRC/WG.6/39/PNG/3](#).

was to improve the welfare of persons with disabilities, realize their rights, remove barriers and implement the Convention at the national level.

10. Since the previous review cycle, notable developments in Papua New Guinea in addressing the needs of persons with disabilities included designing accessible infrastructure and facilities, including ramps for wheelchair access, dedicated toilet facilities, designated parking spots and accessible banking facilities.

11. Papua New Guinea was also in the process of finalizing a disability authority bill and working towards its adoption in 2022. The bill was aimed at ensuring the full and equal enjoyment of human rights by all persons with disabilities. A Disability Authority Office had been established with the mandate to implement the provisions of the national policy on disability and the Convention.

12. In addition, sign language had been established as a fourth official language in conferences and televised news programmes. It was being taught in some private schools and by the Papua New Guinea Red Cross for children with special needs.

13. Other services for persons with disabilities included hearing aid services provided by Callan Services and disability prevention through health care and rehabilitation, inclusive education and social support services for persons with special needs provided by Cheshire Disability Services.

14. Since the previous review cycle, protecting and promoting the rights of women and girls had featured significantly in the development agenda of the Government of Papua New Guinea. That was further consolidated through the landmark visit of the Deputy Secretary-General to Papua New Guinea in March 2020, which coincided with the International Women's Day celebrations and the launch of the European Union-led Spotlight Initiative to combat gender-based violence in the country.

15. The rights of women and girls in the country were further boosted by the establishment of a bipartisan coalition of parliamentarians against gender-based violence, following the high-level meeting on combating gender-based violence held in August 2020. The coalition included 20 of the 111 (all male) members of parliament and has been active on social media and in declaring their commitment to support change.

16. The first annual summit on ending gender-based violence was held in November 2020, and a special parliamentary committee to inquire into issues related to gender-based violence was subsequently established. The committee comprised seven members of parliament. It opened its inquiry in May 2021 with a call for written submissions and two days of public hearings at the APEC Haus in Port Moresby. It held judicial hearings from April to June 2021 on combating gender-based violence in the country. The committee presented a report to parliament on 12 August 2021, containing more than 70 recommendations for immediate action by the Government. One of the recommendations was the implementation of a quota of five seats reserved for women in parliament.

17. The special parliamentary committee was supported by the Office for the Development of Women, which had been established in 2005 within the Department for Community Development and Religion. The Office was mandated to address two key areas, namely, the social and political empowerment of women and the economic empowerment of women.

18. An ongoing major challenge in Papua New Guinea related to empowering and promoting the inclusive and equal participation of women in the political arena, in particular at the level of the National Parliament. The Organic Law on the Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates catered to that need by encouraging political parties to register women candidates to stand for election in the general elections, but with limited success in terms of such candidates being voted into parliament.

19. The quota of five reserve seats recommended by the special parliamentary committee is expected to enable one woman from each of the four national geographical regions and the national capital district to represent women from their region in parliament. The arrangement was expected to take effect in the general election to be held in 2027.

20. The delegation reported that the number of women standing for election at all levels of political representation was increasing. At the local level, several women had been elected as ward councillors and were currently serving a three-year term. Of the 18,480 village court officials, 1,500 were women. They had been reported to be very effective in their roles and advocates for social order, human rights and peace within their communities.

21. In terms of bureaucratic leadership, in the Public Service Commission's gender equity and social inclusion policy, a framework had been set out for the promotion of gender equity and socially inclusive practices across the Commission. The policy had been developed to address a number of issues regarding individuals who were directly or indirectly being disadvantaged or discriminated against, including people living with disabilities and HIV/AIDS, and discrimination on the basis of nationality, race, ethnicity, gender or other personal attributes.

22. In spite of that, a gap in representation and the participation of women remained at the highest levels of representation and decision-making in the National Parliament.

23. The economic empowerment of women remained another key priority of the Government. Having noted the gender imbalance in both the formal and informal sectors, more effort was being invested in the informal sector, which involved more women.

24. That aspiration was featured in the country's plans envisaged for the period 2018–2022, as a key result in the area of increased revenue and wealth creation. Few women owned established businesses; most were operating in the informal sector.

25. In 2018, a total of 200 village women were trained by the Department for Community Development and Religion in processing coconuts into marketable products like virgin oil. A further 500 from all regions of the country were invited to showcase their products at the regional exposition organized to build their capacity in product development, improvement and marketing. In the recent national dialogue held in the lead up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit, held in September 2021, more women from the informal sector had shared their experiences and success stories on entrepreneurship in agriculture and food security.

26. The Department for Community Development and Religion had been working closely with relevant government agencies and civil society stakeholders to protect and promote the rights of women and their active participation in national development through awareness campaigns, gender forums and conferences to involve men and boys in taking the lead in ending violence within their communities.

27. The ongoing challenges for Papua New Guinea in protecting and promoting the human rights of women and girls to access to quality and affordable health and education services was also guided by the principles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

28. Nonetheless, there had also been progress made in identifying the health and social vulnerabilities that affected the rights of women and girls so that appropriate policies would be designed to address those needs. In the national HIV/AIDS strategy, gender-based violence was recognized as a major factor in HIV vulnerability, therefore the HIV response included a framework and guidelines for mainstreaming gender issues into the design, planning and implementation of response activities and the monitoring and evaluation thereof.

29. Papua New Guinea continued to strive towards building an equitable and inclusive society that protected and promoted the human rights of women and girls in its socioeconomic and political endeavours. The national policy on disability was focused on the welfare of women and girls with disabilities. It fostered antidiscrimination measures, disability-friendly infrastructure and accessibility and promoted social equity at all levels. The policy was aimed at improving access to all basic services, including education, health, information, employment, transportation and other services, and access to justice for all regardless of gender, race or nationality.

30. The Assembly of Disabled Persons had set up a desk for women living with disabilities to strengthen institutional links with other organizations with similar mandates, such as the National Council of Women. A major priority under the strategy on advocacy,

rights and responsibilities of the national policy on disability was to provide advocacy for women with disabilities.

31. Papua New Guinea noted the increasing global interest in reports concerning violence against women, in line with the recommendations emanating from the previous review cycle.

32. In that context, two major areas of continuing concern for Papua New Guinea related to sorcery-related killings and gender-based violence.

33. For the first time, the Government had established a parliamentary committee devoted to providing a clear avenue of legal recourse for women who were victims of rape within marriage and other gender-based violence, through a tougher enforcement of the Family Protection Act, the Family Protection Regulations and the Amended Criminal Code Act, resulting in increased reporting of cases and severe penalties for offenders.

34. In addition, the challenges of family and sexual violence and all forms of domestic violence were now addressed through the Child Protection Act, in close liaison with the above legislation, under which substantial penalties were applied for sexual offences and crimes against children and women, on the basis of the degree of the offence.

35. In 2016, the Government had established the national strategy to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, 2016–2025, which was aimed at strengthening and institutionalizing all initiatives and work on gender-based violence in order to achieve a policy of zero tolerance of gender-based violence. The national Gender-based Violence Secretariat was also established in 2016, as the central implementation, coordination and monitoring point for activities by stakeholders, including development partners at all levels.

36. Such activities included the services for the various referral pathways, counselling and capacity-building for survivors and perpetrators and the establishment of safe houses nationwide.

37. Papua New Guinea had made significant strides on combating gender-based violence, although much more work was required.

38. Since 2016, the Gender-based Violence Secretariat had been involved in conducting awareness-raising and advocacy efforts on issues relating to gender-based violence, and in organizing men's forums to focus on men's role in addressing gender-based violence, as well as with the establishment of gender-based violence secretariats and committees at the provincial level. Pilot programmes had been rolled out in four provinces (Morobe, Milne Bay, National Capital District and East New Britain).

39. To complement that effort, the Department of Health, in conjunction with the Family Sexual Violence Action Committee, had established family support centres in major hospitals and health centres throughout the country to provide a comprehensive response to the medical and psychological needs of survivors through the provision of essential services free of charge, including medical first aid, psychological first aid, the prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, the prevention of unwanted or unintended pregnancy, the prevention of hepatitis B and tetanus or other life-threatening medical conditions and the provision of advice by paralegals.

40. Currently, there were 28 safe houses and a men's hub provided for victims of gender-based violence in 17 provinces and 14 family support centres in 13 provinces. However, more needed to be done in that area in terms of adequate resourcing in infrastructure and judicial services to provide victims with physical protection, medical attention and psychological rehabilitation.

41. Papua New Guinea had made progress in addressing some of the gaps since the previous review cycle. In 2016 and 2017, respectively, 33 human rights defenders in three electorates in the National Capital District were trained on standard operating procedures and on gender-based violence data collection. They were also equipped with response tools, such as phones, identification cards, uniforms and manuals, to effectively carry out their duties.

42. In addition, the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary had commenced transforming its Family Sexual Violence Unit into a fully-fledged directorate within the Crimes Division.

Its expanded role included addressing victims of domestic violence. The Unit had 33 established desks in 17 provinces, with 88 policemen and policewomen engaged in that work.

43. In terms of the commitment of Papua New Guinea, as a State party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) that ensured the protection of the rights of children, progress on child protection policies were guided by both domestic and global standards.

44. Papua New Guinea had ratified the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), which provided the framework of action to abolish the worst forms of child labour and ensure that special programmes were introduced for children who were at a heightened risk of exploitation.

45. In response to the recommendations emanating from the previous review cycle, the Government had established the national action plan to eliminate child labour, 2017–2020, and the decent work country programme, 2018–2022, to commit to protecting human dignity and working conditions, including with regard to child labour. Due to the lack of substantive data, the measure of progress on the actual implementation of those policies remained unclear.

46. A review of the Employment Act and the Informal Sector Control Management Act was currently under way to explicitly address all forms of child labour.

47. The Government had launched a national youth development policy, 2020–2030, which was aimed at addressing gaps identified in the policy and legislative environment and in programming for young people. The previous programme, for the period 2007–2017, sought to provide young people 12 to 25 years of age who were out of school with youth programmes aimed at encouraging self-employment and income-generation.

48. The rights of the child, as enshrined in the Constitution as human rights of citizens, were also protected through the enforcement of the Family Protection Act. Having noted that a lack of knowledge and information on human rights legislation often marred effective implementation, awareness-raising programmes in the referral pathways were conducted in 2017 for child welfare service providers.

49. Between 2018 and 2019, awareness-raising was focused specifically on village court officials, including magistrates, clerks and peace officers, to inform them of the additional powers that they had under the Family Protection Act and the Family Protection Regulations to issue interim protection orders.

50. The regulations criminalized all forms of violence within the family unit, recognizing domestic violence as a crime punishable by law with a fine up to K10,000 (\$2,900) or 6 months' imprisonment. That created a regime for the issuance of family protection orders to deter and prevent violence at all levels of society.

51. As a result, statistics from the Family Sexual Violence Action Committee alone indicated a total number of 414 cases reported in 2017, of which 318 involved female adults, 48 were adult cases and 47 cases involved children. Actual recorded cases for the same year totalled 600, however unreported incidents might push the records higher.

52. Under the Family Protection Act awareness-raising programme, a total of 360 village court officials in the Southern Highlands, Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Morobe and Oro provinces received basic training.

53. In 2020, refresher training had been conducted, with more emphasis placed on ensuring that village court officials were familiarized with appropriate documentation in addressing complaints on domestic violence. The Department of Justice and the Attorney General had developed information, education and communication materials on the provisions of the Family Protection Act for partner agencies and the general public, using simple English.

54. Another important human rights area was the link with environmental issues, including natural resource ownership and prior informed consent to harvesting those resources.

55. In Papua New Guinea, the Conservation and Environment Protection Authority was mandated to address environmental protection, while taking into account the rights of indigenous communities. A stringent screening process was in place to address matters relating to issuing environment permits to logging companies or proponents, ensuring that all consultations were recorded, landowners identified, registered incorporated land groups noted and landowners consented to the project being developed.

56. That was achieved through land-use agreements and other subsidiary agreements, such as benefit-sharing. The Conservation and Environment Protection Authority conformed to other environmental laws, such as biodiversity protection and conservation laws, and to international conventions on the environment and biodiversity protection, when assessing the environment impact of a project. Papua New Guinea was also a State party to various international conventions relating to environmental protection.

57. The Convention on Biological Diversity, ratified in 1993, was aimed at protecting the Earth's biological diversity. The Government was making the arrangements necessary to accede to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, with a view to concluding the process in 2021.

58. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, ratified in 2000, was aimed at delivering a new integrated approach to solving the problem of land degradation and supporting sustainable development at the community level.

59. Large-scale projects fell under three main categories: mining and extractive industries; forest harvesting, land clearance and clearing allowable cuts; and petroleum and gas production and processing.

60. The independent auditing of those operations on a routine basis ensured that the management of the environment throughout the lifespan of a project employed good management practices and principles.

61. That was to ensure that the projects were complying with national and international environmental standards. The Conservation and Environment Protection Authority's regular internal monitoring ensured that environmental permit conditions were not breached. The Ok Tedi Environment Management Act authorized the Authority to regulate the waste disposal at the Ok Tedi Mine. All fees were being paid to the Authority to undertake regular compliance monitoring and independent auditing.

62. In line with the environmental permit conditions, the permit holders were encouraged to set aside protected areas through biodiversity offset schemes.

63. The draft Papua New Guinea protected area bill called for such an arrangement, including sourcing international funding assistance. A regulation would be drafted for the establishment of a biodiversity trust fund, where all donor funds and other funds received would be kept for the purpose of protecting the unique biodiversity of Papua New Guinea.

64. In addressing the issue of mitigating the adverse impacts of the logging industries on local populations, the Government continued to engage in consultations with stakeholders, as a key component of the environmental impact assessment process. Traditional landowners were an important stakeholder in that process.

65. All objections to the environmental impact statement were carefully screened and analysed to ensure that no stakeholder was left out in that vital decision-making process. Some of the key areas that were extensively discussed and deliberated on were issues of gender, social disorder, vulnerability, wealth creation and equal participation.

66. In 2020, the Government had introduced the national oceans policy and established an Oceans Office. It was currently working to establish a marine and scientific research committee, comprising representation of all relevant government agencies, to regulate marine scientific research activities in the country. Once fully operational, the research committee would complement the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and reinvigorate the maritime policies on environmental protection and conservation. The Nagoya Protocol would be

complemented by the role of the research committee to regulate the extraction and use of genetic material for research purposes.

67. The delegation highlighted that its report stemmed from an inclusive and consultative multi-stakeholder process, encompassing the entire country. It also involved the government agencies that were directly involved in the implementation of the recommendations from previous review cycles.

68. Papua New Guinea remained realistic about the ongoing challenges faced in better fostering human rights for all people, which required sustained partnerships at all levels carried out in a transparent and respectful way.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

69. During the interactive dialogue, 60 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

70. Pakistan appreciated the adoption of the Independent Commission against Corruption Act, expressing the hope that it would help to ensure financial transparency and implement socioeconomic policies effectively. It also welcomed national policies on youth, education, health and persons with disabilities and those to promote access to education, health and employment and to achieve sustained human development.

71. The Philippines took note with appreciation of the constructive engagement of Papua New Guinea with human rights mechanisms and welcomed the adoption of the national strategy on sexually transmitted infections and HIV, 2018–2022.

72. Portugal appreciated the efforts made to combat corruption, namely, the creation of an investigative body for that purpose, the measures taken to ensure greater gender sensitivity within the police force and the priority given to ensuring universal birth registration.

73. Slovenia remained concerned about the data indicating that a quarter of children between 6 and 18 years of age were not in school and that nearly half of adolescents between 10 and 19 years of age in the country had no formal education.

74. Spain appreciated the participation of Papua New Guinea in the universal periodic review process.

75. Switzerland welcomed the delegation of Papua New Guinea to the universal periodic review process.

76. Thailand welcomed the establishment of the Independent Commission against Corruption in 2020 to investigate and prosecute private individuals and public officials for their misconduct. It remained concerned about cases of domestic violence and the lack of equal and meaningful political participation and leadership of women. It also noted the difficulties in access to education, especially for children from poor families and those living in remote areas.

77. Timor-Leste commended Papua New Guinea for the adoption of a national strategy on sexually transmitted infections and HIV and the Whistle-blower Act and the establishment of the Independent Commission against Corruption. It also appreciated the training courses held to strengthen the capacity of the police, with a view to eliminating abuse, corruption and the excessive use of force.

78. Tunisia appreciated the progress made in combating gender-based violence, protecting victims of domestic violence, supporting gender equality and social inclusion and strengthening training and capacity-building programmes on equal opportunities. It commended Papua New Guinea for the measures and actions adopted in the fields of HIV eradication, combating corruption, and environmental laws and policies.

79. Turkey welcomed the Civil Registration Act and the National Identity Project, which was aimed at registering all citizens in order to provide them with birth certificates. It commended Papua New Guinea for the establishment of the Independent Commission against Corruption and the special parliamentary committee on gender-based violence.

80. In response to the interventions made by various States, the head of the delegation briefly spoke about some of the recommendations made, while underscoring that detailed responses would be provided in writing in due course.
81. On corruption issues, Papua New Guinea had established the Independent Commission against Corruption, and legislation was in place and efforts were under way to implement that important bill. There were other related efforts on the issue that were ongoing.
82. On recommendations relating to accession to human rights treaties, consultations with the relevant authorities would be undertaken to address the issues raised. Work was, however, under way with the relevant line departments and agencies.
83. On the issue of gender equality and empowerment, in particular with regard to accessibility for women in politics, the legislature, decision-making and employment in public office, Papua New Guinea had relevant legislation to address those matters. It had also established a parliamentary committee to look into strengthening gender equality and empowerment and combating gender-based violence.
84. On the death penalty, Papua New Guinea had legislation in place, however, it had not been implemented for various reasons, including cultural and religious beliefs.
85. With regard to education, the Government was taking all possible measures to ensure that no child was left behind in education. It had a policy of free universal education, including measures to address the issue of discrimination to ensure quality education for all children, especially those from poor families. That was constrained by resource capacity, the physical terrain and vast geographical challenges, which made the provision of education services to remote villages and communities a challenge.
86. Ukraine welcomed the positive steps taken to implement the supported recommendations emanating from the previous cycle, in particular the steps taken towards tackling corruption.
87. The United Kingdom commended Papua New Guinea for its efforts to tackle corruption, in particular the establishment of the Independent Commission against Corruption and the passing of the Whistle-blower Act. It also welcomed the increased focus on tackling gender-based violence, including through the work of the special parliamentary committee, while emphasizing that tackling violence would be an important element, alongside freedom of assembly and expression, in delivering peaceful and credible national elections in June 2022.
88. The United States commended Papua New Guinea for its commitment to advancing human rights protection.
89. Uruguay welcomed the efforts made in protecting human rights.
90. Vanuatu welcomed the adoption of the national strategy to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and of laws to protect girls and women, as well as those to improve nutrition and mental health and to address HIV.
91. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted that, after the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Papua New Guinea had strengthened its national plans and policies to serve that vulnerable group. It also welcomed the prioritization of empowering women, aimed at ensuring their equal participation in public affairs. It appreciated the policies for achieving universal access to free and compulsory education, as well as efforts to advance the fight against HIV/AIDS.
92. Zambia appreciated the positive strides to advance human rights in the country and the efforts deployed to implement the supported recommendations emanating from previous cycles.
93. Algeria commended Papua New Guinea for its efforts to combat domestic and sexual violence. It encouraged Papua New Guinea to pursue its efforts in the framework of its free education policy.
94. Argentina thanked Papua New Guinea for the presentation of its national report.

95. Australia welcomed the efforts to address gender-based violence and advance legislation to improve women's lives, as well as the passage of legislation in 2020 to establish the Independent Commission against Corruption. It encouraged Papua New Guinea to realize the rights to health and education by allocating sufficient resources and by continuing to prioritize COVID-19 vaccination coverage.

96. Botswana welcomed the steps undertaken to train law enforcement officers to protect victims of domestic violence, including the development of a gender equality and social inclusion policy for the police. Noting with concern that a quarter of children between 6 and 18 years of age were not in school, Botswana encouraged Papua New Guinea to provide free education. It further called upon the country to expeditiously submit its overdue reports to the human rights mechanisms.

97. Brazil commended Papua New Guinea for the measures adopted to fight HIV/AIDS and the constitutional right of citizens to enforce human rights through petitions to the national court. It encouraged Papua New Guinea to continue eliminating practical barriers to access to justice, including by expanding legal aid and information about rights and legal services. While praising the de facto suspension of the death penalty since 1954, Brazil encouraged Papua New Guinea to consider its formal abolition.

98. Canada commended Papua New Guinea for the implementation of the Family Protection Regulations. It urged Papua New Guinea to improve its protective services for victims of trafficking and to provide services specifically tailored to the needs of victims.

99. Chile encouraged Papua New Guinea to continue to strengthen the protection and guarantee of human rights in the country.

100. China welcomed the promotion and protection of human rights by Papua New Guinea and that it had taken active measures to promote economic and social development, eliminate poverty, develop education and health services, address climate change and protect the rights of women, children and the disabled.

101. Cuba acknowledged the efforts and actions implemented by Papua New Guinea in the implementation of the recommendations emanating from the previous review cycle.

102. Cyprus commended Papua New Guinea for its comprehensive set of environmental protection laws and policies. It encouraged Papua New Guinea to submit their reports in a timely manner.

103. Denmark commended Papua New Guinea for its national strategy to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. It remained concerned about the widespread practice of child and early marriage and the discrimination against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex communities.

104. Estonia noted with appreciation the positive steps taken towards realizing gender equality. It commended Papua New Guinea for establishing a Gender-Based Violence Secretariat and developing a national strategy to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. Estonia encouraged the country to continue promoting and protecting the rights of children.

105. Fiji commended Papua New Guinea for strengthening its legal framework against torture. It also commended Papua New Guinea for its aspiration, set out in paragraph 37 of its national report, for ongoing progress towards the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

106. Finland made recommendations.

107. The delegation of Papua New Guinea responded to some of the concerns on the ratification of treaties and conventions, explaining the steps undertaken to address those issues.

108. On child marriage, it was noted that, in the cultural context of Papua New Guinea, that was unacceptable and therefore was not the practice in the country.

109. On allegations of police brutality, violence, torture and other forms of violence, it was noted that Papua New Guinea had laws in place to address those issues, and efforts were under way to address them.
110. On the abolition of the death penalty, the delegation mentioned the de facto moratorium in Papua New Guinea, since 1954, while referring to the criminal justice system of sovereign States and the importance of the right of life.
111. France encouraged Papua New Guinea to implement its recommendations.
112. Georgia noted with appreciation the measures taken by Papua New Guinea aimed at improving human rights, including the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission, during the current review cycle. Georgia appreciated the positive developments regarding gender equality and social inclusion and the fulfilment of the various domestic implementation processes for human rights policies and legislation.
113. Germany remained concerned about the numerous reports of police violence and the situation of women and children in the country, who continued to be disproportionately affected by crime and acts of violence.
114. Haiti welcomed the measures adopted by Papua New Guinea, including the training of police officers and the establishment of a women's advisory network, to strengthen the fight against domestic violence. Haiti encouraged continued efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against families, including violence against children.
115. Iceland welcomed the national report.
116. India noted with appreciation the significant progress made in protecting and promoting human rights through various legislative and policy measures on the right to health and education, as well as measures on the rights of specific persons or groups.
117. Indonesia welcomed efforts by Papua New Guinea in establishing a range of core measures to address sexual violence cases across the country.
118. Iraq appreciated the adoption of a number of laws and policies aimed at promoting and respecting human rights, as part of the implementation of the recommendations emanating from the previous cycle, and advised the country to continue working in the implementation of future recommendations.
119. Ireland commended Papua New Guinea for its efforts to combat sexual and gender-based violence, including through the development of the national strategy to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and the establishment of the national Gender-Based Violence Secretariat. However, Ireland remained concerned that the national strategy had not been adequately implemented, as reflected by the persistently high rates of sexual and gender-based violence and the lack of support services for victims. Ireland also noted that, while there had been progress made in strengthening national legislation, Papua New Guinea had not ratified any core international human rights instruments since the previous review cycle.
120. Italy appreciated the efforts carried out by Papua New Guinea to implement the national strategy to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and welcomed progress made towards the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, by 2022, as indicated in the national report.
121. Japan appreciated the positive steps taken to promote and protect children's rights, including the establishment of the child justice system.
122. Latvia thanked Papua New Guinea for the presentation of its national report.
123. Malawi commended Papua New Guinea for formulating policies to safeguard the safety and rights of women and girls, such as the national strategy to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. It hailed the redoubled efforts to combat corruption through legislation such as the Independent Commission against Corruption Act.
124. Malaysia welcomed the Government's efforts, underscoring that adequate resources and improved basic socioeconomic and development conditions were essential in that respect. It encouraged the country to continue to engage with the international community to

address the challenges it faced, with a view to improving the overall human rights situation in the country.

125. Maldives commended Papua New Guinea for finalizing the national action plan against corruption, which had led to the successful establishment of the Independent Commission against Corruption. It hoped that the body was sufficiently funded and staffed to enable efficient investigations under the Whistle-blower Act and the Organic Law on the Independent Commission against Corruption.

126. The Marshall Islands was encouraged by the country's comprehensive set of laws and policies on environmental issues. It commended Papua New Guinea for its recent endeavours in fighting corruption with the adoption of the Whistle-blower Act and the Organic Law on the Independent Commission against Corruption.

127. Mauritius commended Papua New Guinea for having developed the national literacy policy, which targeted out-of-school young people, and adults.

128. Mexico welcomed the adoption of the national strategy on sexually transmitted infections and HIV and the development of a gender equality and social inclusion policy for the national police.

129. Montenegro welcomed the adoption of the Whistle-blower Act and the national action plan against corruption, encouraging the Government to ensure that the Independent Commission against Corruption was well-funded and well-staffed so that it could effectively implement its mandate. It praised Papua New Guinea on the range of protection services provided to fight domestic violence.

130. Morocco welcomed the establishment of the national action plan against corruption, which had led to the creation of the Independent Commission against Corruption. It hailed the implementation of the national plan for 2050 and the national strategy for responsible sustainable development.

131. Nepal appreciated the efforts of Papua New Guinea towards realizing its national plan for 2050 and the development strategic plan, 2010–2030. While recognizing the country's commitment to addressing the political participation of women, it called for continued efforts to increase the representation of women at higher decision-making levels.

132. The Netherlands welcomed the progress made in preventing and responding to gender-based violence, including the establishment of the interim Gender-Based Violence Secretariat, which would hopefully help to ensure accountability for survivors through a multisector approach. It was concerned, however, that few perpetrators of violence against women and girls were brought to justice.

133. New Zealand noted that gender-based violence continued to be a serious issue. It commended Papua New Guinea for adopting a national strategy to address the issue and for establishing a special parliamentary committee on gender-based violence. It urged the country to undertake efforts to address the lack of representation of women in parliament.

134. Senegal welcomed the steps taken by Papua New Guinea to implement the supported recommendations of the previous review cycle.

135. Serbia encouraged Papua New Guinea to cooperate closely with the relevant United Nations bodies, including the Human Rights Council.

136. The Bahamas highlighted the commitment of Papua New Guinea to ensuring the promotion and protection of the human rights of all its citizens, despite challenges faced, such as the effects of climate change. The Bahamas welcomed the establishment of the Independent Commission against Corruption in 2020. It commended Papua New Guinea for the introduction of the early childhood education policy in 2020.

137. The delegation of Papua New Guinea, stressed that it was committed to working with the Human Rights Council, members of the global community, civil society stakeholders and development partners, as well as the members of the troika, to complete the universal periodic review process.

138. The delegation noted the level of cooperation among States and the solidarity with which countries were moving forward to address the common issues that affected the lives of citizens everywhere.

139. The delegation had provided responses to some of the questions and comments during the interactive dialogue and would provide further responses in writing in due course.

140. The delegation stressed its commitment to implementing the relevant recommendations emanating from the previous review cycles which were outstanding and sought the support of the United Nations and development partners to assist it in implementing its programme for realizing human rights.

141. The Government intended to share with all national stakeholders the outcome of the universal periodic review process and to work with them in the implementation of the recommendations emanating from the process. An integral part of its efforts at the national level would include strengthening advocacy and raising awareness of human rights issues, including through the education system, and sharing knowledge and information on best practices.

142. The delegation thanked all its partners, including the United Nations and civil society organizations, for their active support to the remote communities and the vulnerable and marginalized people in the country, regardless of race, ethnicity or gender.

143. It reiterated its strong commitment to upholding its national commitments and obligations in further strengthening and improving the human rights situation in Papua New Guinea.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

144. **The following recommendations will be examined by Papua New Guinea, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the forty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council:**

144.1 **Ratify and implement international human rights treaties and the protocols thereto, as previously recommended (Slovenia);**

144.2 **Continue efforts to ratify international instruments and cooperate with human rights mechanisms (Morocco);**

144.3 **Issue an open invitation to all Human Rights Council special procedures (Ukraine);**

144.4 **Ratify the core international human rights treaties by the immediate ratification of the remaining covenants and conventions, beginning with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the nine core human rights instruments (Zambia);**

144.5 **Consider acceding to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);**

144.6 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Japan);**

144.7 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Bahamas) (Botswana) (Chile) (Denmark) (Estonia) (Latvia) (Malawi) (Timor-Leste) (Vanuatu); and the Optional Protocol thereto (Finland);**

144.8 **Continue and intensify efforts towards the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Fiji);**

- 144.9 Take further steps towards the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol thereto (Georgia);
- 144.10 Consider ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Indonesia) (Iraq);
- 144.11 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Botswana) (Estonia);
- 144.12 Ratify and fully align its national legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Latvia);
- 144.13 Consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Algeria) (Senegal);
- 144.14 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Finland);
- 144.15 Ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Marshall Islands);
- 144.16 Consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Mauritius);
- 144.17 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and enforce measures to increase awareness of gender-based violence, especially against women, and penalize infractions adequately (Vanuatu);
- 144.18 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, review customary laws and repeal all provisions that are harmful and discriminatory against women and girls (Iceland);
- 144.19 Take further steps to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in particular by curbing violence against women (Indonesia);
- 144.20 Ratify and implement the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 144.21 Accede to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol thereto, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Turkey);
- 144.22 Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Ukraine);
- 144.23 Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Ireland);
- 144.24 Expedite the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Optional Protocol

to the Convention against Torture, and two optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Cyprus);

144.25 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Mexico);**

144.26 **Request technical support from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to advance in the ratification of the main international human rights instruments to which the country is not yet a party, as well as to ensure the alignment of its national legal system with the obligations derived from ratified human rights treaties (Uruguay);**

144.27 **Consider requesting technical assistance and cooperation for the preparation and delivery of reports to the United Nations treaty bodies (Chile);**

144.28 **Request technical assistance for the timely preparation and submission of reports to the United Nations treaty bodies (Cyprus);**

144.29 **Deliver the overdue reports to the Human Rights Council, including those under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons from Disabilities (Estonia);**

144.30 **Take measures to deal with socioeconomic challenges and seek international assistance for promoting progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (Pakistan);**

144.31 **Further improve the civil registration system through awareness raising activities in order to sustain the rise in registration numbers (Turkey);**

144.32 **Guarantee the integrity of electoral processes, notably of the upcoming legislative elections, in accordance with electoral observers' recommendations following the previous elections, in 2017 (France);**

144.33 **Appoint a focal point for the responsibility to protect – a senior level government official – responsible for the promotion of mass atrocity prevention and cooperation in that regard at the national, regional and international levels (Slovenia);**

144.34 **Continue its efforts for the establishment and operationalization of a national human rights commission (Pakistan);**

144.35 **Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), as recommended during the previous universal periodic review cycle (Netherlands);**

144.36 **Establish a national human rights commission (New Zealand);**

144.37 **Establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Ukraine) (Argentina) (Malaysia) (Montenegro);**

144.38 **Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), as supported by the Government of Papua New Guinea at the previous review cycle, in 2016 (Australia);**

144.39 **Continue efforts aimed at establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Georgia);**

- 144.40 Consider establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (India);
- 144.41 Strengthen efforts to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), including through possible bilateral discussions with the existing national human rights institutions in the Asia-Pacific region (Indonesia);
- 144.42 Expedite the process for the establishment of a national human rights institution in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Nepal);
- 144.43 Take concrete measures to tackle stigma and discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and members of their families to ensure that they have timely and adequate access to health services and that they can enjoy their rights to education and to work without discrimination, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Portugal);
- 144.44 Take the necessary steps to combat discrimination and violence against women and children and on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Fiji);
- 144.45 Adopt a legal framework that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Mexico);
- 144.46 Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between men and strengthen protections from societal violence and discrimination for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and other persons (United States of America);
- 144.47 Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between persons of the same sex (France);
- 144.48 Decriminalize sexual relations between consenting same-sex adults (Italy);
- 144.49 Decriminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex and include sexual orientation and gender as prohibited grounds of discrimination (New Zealand);
- 144.50 Amend the preamble and article 55 of the Constitution to include sexual orientation, gender identity and expression as grounds of non-discrimination (Iceland);
- 144.51 Reform the Penal Code by repealing provisions that criminalize sexual relations between persons of the same sex (Spain);
- 144.52 Review the Criminal Code with a view to repealing provisions that criminalize same-sex sexual relations (Montenegro);
- 144.53 Amend the Criminal Code with a view to repealing provisions that criminalize same-sex sexual relations between consenting adults (Argentina);
- 144.54 Take immediate steps to decriminalize same-sex sexual relations between consenting adults, by repealing section 210 of the Criminal Code, and pass legislation to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Canada);
- 144.55 Decriminalize same-sex conduct between consenting adults by repealing sections 210 and 212 of the Criminal Code (Denmark);
- 144.56 Repeal sections 210 and 212 of the Criminal Code, in order to address discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Germany);
- 144.57 Repeal sections 210 and 212 of the Criminal Code, in order to decriminalize sexual relations between men (Iceland);

- 144.58 **Maintain the various environmental protection measures by ensuring the strengthening of the body of environmental legislation (Morocco);**
- 144.59 **Continue to implement measures to adequately protect the population from the risks of unavoidable natural disasters due to climate change, in accordance with its environmental legislation and good practices (Haiti);**
- 144.60 **Implement a solid policy to combat climate change, and advocate for climate action by all nations (Vanuatu);**
- 144.61 **Continue to take more effective measures to ensure that large-scale projects meet environmental standards (Algeria);**
- 144.62 **Ensure the meaningful participation of women, children, persons with disabilities and local communities in the development and implementation of climate change and disaster risk reduction frameworks (Fiji);**
- 144.63 **Guarantee the participation of civil society, and its equality of treatment and the diversity of its representation, in the development of climate and environmental policies (Switzerland);**
- 144.64 **Take additional measures to guarantee the conformity of projects related to forestry services with the rights of the local people concerned (France);**
- 144.65 **Consider developing a national action plan on human rights including the business sector (Indonesia);**
- 144.66 **Develop a national action plan in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, with the aim of promoting respect for human rights in the context of business activities (Japan);**
- 144.67 **Build capacity, provide resources and safeguard the autonomy of the Independent Commission against Corruption to decisively curb corruption (Malawi);**
- 144.68 **Continue efforts to combat corruption (Tunisia);**
- 144.69 **Strengthen awareness-raising campaigns on the death penalty and public debate on the topic from a human rights perspective, including in its parliament, with a view to enabling as soon as possible its definitive abolition and the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Uruguay);**
- 144.70 **Limit capital crimes, with the aim of abolishing the death penalty (Cyprus);**
- 144.71 **Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Portugal);**
- 144.72 **Initiate a process for a State review and discussion of the relevance of the death penalty to Papua New Guinea, with a view to considering its complete abolition (Fiji);**
- 144.73 **Abolish the death penalty de jure (France);**
- 144.74 **Fully abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Iceland);**
- 144.75 **Pursue efforts towards the full and unequivocal abolition of the death penalty (Marshall Islands);**
- 144.76 **Move towards the official abolition of the death penalty in all cases and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Spain);**

- 144.77 Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Nepal);
- 144.78 Sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and establish an official moratorium on the imposition of the death penalty (Chile);
- 144.79 Abolish the use of death penalty and, as a first step, immediately establish an official moratorium on executions and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Finland);
- 144.80 Maintain the moratorium on death sentences and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Italy);
- 144.81 Maintain the moratorium on the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Timor-Leste);
- 144.82 Implement an immediate formal moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Australia);
- 144.83 Adopt an immediate moratorium on the execution of the death penalty, with a view to its complete abolition (Germany);
- 144.84 Establish a moratorium on the death penalty and consider as soon as possible its abolition and replacement by an alternative punishment that is fair, proportionate and in line with international standards (Haiti);
- 144.85 Establish a moratorium on the 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);
- 144.86 Establish an immediate official moratorium on executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty, and repeal all provisions in domestic law allowing for the death penalty (New Zealand);
- 144.87 Establish an immediate moratorium on the death penalty (Switzerland);
- 144.88 Raise the age of criminal responsibility (Turkey);
- 144.89 Review the Criminal Code and legislation to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14 years or older, in accordance with international human rights standards (Uruguay);
- 144.90 Establish free legal aid offices across the 22 provinces of the country (Zambia);
- 144.91 Step up efforts to boost the effectiveness of its criminal and judicial system (France);
- 144.92 Investigate reports of mistreatment by the police, including torture, the excessive use of force, arbitrary or unlawful detention and killings and sexual violence, and prosecute perpetrators (United States of America);
- 144.93 Investigate and promptly prosecute police officers who commit criminal offences, such as torture, sexual violence and prohibited forms of ill-treatment, including the excessive use of force (Zambia);

- 144.94 Investigate effectively all acts of the security forces alleged to relate to torture, ill-treatment, extrajudicial killings and sexual violence and prosecute and punish perpetrators (Germany);
- 144.95 Consider reviewing current legislation on access to information, with the aim of strengthening, both online and offline, the rights to privacy, to freedom of expression and to peaceful assembly and association (Brazil);
- 144.96 Introduce legislation on access to information that is in line with international standards (Marshall Islands);
- 144.97 Guarantee the rights to freedom of expression and association, by reviewing the regulations that have the effect of limiting the exercise of those rights and freedoms and persecuting their defenders (Spain);
- 144.98 Continue to strengthen its successful policies in the field of economic, social and cultural rights to continue improving the quality of life of its people, in particular those in the most vulnerable sectors of the population (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 144.99 Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development and improve people's living standards (China);
- 144.100 Continue efforts to ensure the well-being of its population, particularly women, children and youth, based on the design and effective implementation of national policies in different strategic sectors (Cuba);
- 144.101 Adopt measures to ensure universal access to health (Mauritius);
- 144.102 Increase health-care funding and facilities, even in rural areas, to provide medical assistance to people living with HIV (Vanuatu);
- 144.103 Take necessary steps to ensure that hospitals and rural medical services are properly funded and accessible, particularly to those women and girls seeking medical assistance in childbirth (Canada);
- 144.104 Ensure that women and girls have adequate access to sexual and reproductive health-care services (Bahamas);
- 144.105 Fully ensure sexual and reproductive health rights (Germany);
- 144.106 Decriminalize abortion and ensure universal and safe access to abortion and other sexual and reproductive health and rights (Iceland);
- 144.107 Take adequate measures to improve access to health care, particularly for women, children and other vulnerable groups, in rural areas (India);
- 144.108 Continue making efforts to ensure that health facilities and services are accessible to all, particularly the most vulnerable (Malaysia);
- 144.109 Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Senegal);
- 144.110 Intensify efforts to provide quality education for all age groups of children (Iraq);
- 144.111 Take practical steps to ensure meaningful access to free, quality primary and secondary education for all children, including those with disabilities (Canada);
- 144.112 Consider further measures to address barriers to education for girls and improve the retention of female students in the education system (Philippines);
- 144.113 Adopt a coherent strategy to ensure universal access to education, as well as to provide formal education to both girls and boys, as one of the means of poverty alleviation (Mauritius);

- 144.114 **Realize the right to education, including by integrating gender equality into all levels of education, and ensure access to education, particularly for communities in remote and rural areas (Malaysia);**
- 144.115 **Increase investment in educational infrastructure and increase the enrolment rate of children in remote areas (China);**
- 144.116 **Develop a national strategy on out-of-school children, particularly in remote and rural communities, to ensure access to education (Maldives);**
- 144.117 **Finalize, adopt and implement the national strategy on out-of-school children, especially children in remote and rural communities, to guarantee the right to education (Spain);**
- 144.118 **Adopt measures to bring back children who dropped out of school due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and ensure access to education (India);**
- 144.119 **Intensify its efforts to improve the rate of school attendance across the country and ensure access to education for all, including for children with disabilities, during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond (Thailand);**
- 144.120 **Develop policies and practices to increase the participation of women and girls in society and political life and in decision-making processes on issues that affect them (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 144.121 **Further strengthen the economic participation of women and their access to livelihood opportunities (Philippines);**
- 144.122 **Take further steps to increase the participation of women in the legislature, the executive and the judiciary (Philippines);**
- 144.123 **Enhance the greater participation of women in politics and decision-making (Maldives);**
- 144.124 **Guarantee full, equal and effective representation and the participation of women at all levels of decision-making by amending the Organic Law on the Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates (Mexico);**
- 144.125 **Implement practical measures intended to improve the political representation of women at both the national and local levels (New Zealand);**
- 144.126 **Continue financing and supporting special measures that would remove all obstacles to the political participation of women (Serbia);**
- 144.127 **Strengthen its efforts to eliminate the barriers to the political participation of women (Timor-Leste);**
- 144.128 **Continue the efforts made to promote gender equality, empower women and support their participation in public and political life (Tunisia);**
- 144.129 **Continue efforts to develop a policy of gender equality and social inclusion within law enforcement agencies (Tunisia);**
- 144.130 **Strengthen measures to promote equality between men and women and to combat gender-based violence (France);**
- 144.131 **Further strengthen its efforts in addressing violence against women and girls, providing adequate support to victims and promoting the representation of women in politics and decision-making processes (Thailand);**
- 144.132 **Take concrete steps to protect the human rights of women, including by punishing sexual and gender-based violence and domestic violence, eliminate all forms of discrimination in law and in practice and promote the full and equal participation of women in society (Portugal);**
- 144.133 **Implement recommendations emanating from the first report to parliament on the inquiry into gender-based violence in Papua New Guinea and advance the implementation of the sorcery accusation-related violence national action plan (Australia);**

- 144.134 Enforce measures provided in the Family Protection Act to tackle sexual and physical violence against women (Ukraine);
- 144.135 Effectively enforce the provisions of the Family Protection Act to protect women and children from violence within the family and from violence in government facilities (Germany);
- 144.136 Develop a strategy to combat all forms of violence against women, including through the provision of training and capacity-building for court personnel and protection mechanisms (Marshall Islands);
- 144.137 Increase funding and resources to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, including training for police to identify and investigate cases (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 144.138 Take further steps to address and protect women and girls from all forms of gender-based violence, including sorcery accusation-related violence (Philippines);
- 144.139 Continue efforts to eliminate gender-based violence, including domestic, sexual and sorcery accusation-related violence, by strengthening accountability mechanisms and allocating sufficient budgets to relevant programmes (Canada);
- 144.140 Take action to prevent acts of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, and ensure the accountability of those who perpetrate those acts (Chile);
- 144.141 Thoroughly investigate acts of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence and sorcery-related violence, and prosecute perpetrators (Cyprus);
- 144.142 Investigate acts of gender-based violence, including domestic violence and sexual violence, and prosecute and punish the perpetrators (United States of America);
- 144.143 Investigate all acts of violence against women and girls, including sexual violence, domestic violence and sorcery-related violence, and prosecute perpetrators, with a view to ensuring full accountability for victims (Netherlands);
- 144.144 Strengthen ongoing efforts to prevent and combat violence and abuse against women and girls, including domestic violence and sorcery-related violence, including by creating safe spaces for victims of violence and prosecuting perpetrators (Italy);
- 144.145 Take all necessary measures, both in law and in practice, to combat violence against women and girls and domestic violence and to ensure that victims receive medical and social support and have access to legal remedies (Latvia);
- 144.146 Develop a national gender policy and an action plan endowed with sufficient resources to combat sexual and gender-based violence and guarantee the rights of victims (Spain);
- 144.147 Budget adequate resources and build capacity to effectively implement policies to end gender-based violence, especially against women and girls (Malawi);
- 144.148 Ensure that adequate funding and resources are allocated to national and provincial secretariats to further build their capacity in combatting sexual and gender-based violence (Ireland);
- 144.149 Increase its support, funding and coordination for efforts to respond to violence against women and girls (New Zealand);

144.150 In line with Sustainable Development Goal 5, work with local communities to ensure the abolition of practices that are discriminatory against women, such as child, early and forced marriage, witchcraft-related executions and bride price (Switzerland);

144.151 Strengthen measures to end child marriage (Ukraine);

144.152 Abolish any exceptions to 18 years as the minimum age of marriage (Denmark);

144.153 Adopt measures to promote the full enjoyment of the rights of children, especially the right to education, prevent child, early and forced marriage and raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14 years (Italy);

144.154 Strengthen efforts to combat child abuse and exploitation, including by raising the level of birth registration, which would facilitate the full implementation of the Child Protection Act (2015) (Japan);

144.155 Provide more training and resources to schools and teachers so that they are better equipped to meet the needs of children with disabilities and children affected by leprosy (Japan);

144.156 Take all necessary measures to ensure birth registration for all children under 5 years of age, including children of refugees and stateless persons (Mexico);

144.157 Maintain the priority given to promoting the rights of people with disabilities and their access to health, education, employment and basic services (Cuba);

144.158 Plan and implement concrete measures to enable persons with disabilities to overcome the obstacles that they face in access to education and the labour market and to combat their stigmatization (Spain);

144.159 Continue its efforts to enact the disability authority bill (Bahamas);

144.160 Take additional steps to enhance the protection of the rights of refugees and asylum seekers (Brazil);

144.161 Accede to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Haiti).

145. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Papua New Guinea was headed by the Acting Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Elias Wohengu, and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Mr. Max H. Rai, OBE Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations, New York, USA;
 - Ms. Seline Leo-Lohia, Acting Director General, Multilateral & Development Cooperation Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea;
 - Mr. Fred Sarufa, Minister and Deputy Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations, New York, USA;
 - Ms. Mou Begura, Acting Director, International Organisations Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.
-