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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Azerbaijan

* 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-fourth session from 6 to 17 November 2023. The review of Azerbaijan was held at the 13th meeting, on 14 November 2023. The delegation of Azerbaijan was headed by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Samir Sharifov. At its 17th meeting, held on 17 November 2023, the Working Group adopted the report on Azerbaijan.

2. On 11 January 2023, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Azerbaijan: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Malawi and Maldives.

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 Azerbaijan:

(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 Armenia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Azerbaijan 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. Azerbaijan noted that the universal periodic review was a good opportunity to exchange views on a wide range of issues regarding the promotion and protection of human rights. The fourth national report of Azerbaijan had been prepared by the Standing Working Group, established by a decree of the President of Azerbaijan in 2018.

6. Azerbaijan provided information about the standing invitation extended to all United Nations special procedure mandate holders since 2013, with Azerbaijan hosting 13 country visits by mandate holders, including recent and forthcoming visits of Special Rapporteurs.

7. Azerbaijan also provided information about its ratification of and accession to several Council of Europe conventions, and the adoption of the new laws on general education, the media, the rights of persons with disabilities, and political parties, as well as information on the realization of national action plans, strategies and State programmes in the areas of combating corruption, combating the financing of terrorism, the development of Azerbaijani justice, gender equality, combating domestic violence, and the protection of children.

8. Azerbaijan noted that the Centre for Legal Examination and Legislative Initiatives, as well as the Institute of Law and Human Rights under the Centre, had been established in 2022. Azerbaijan also stated that the presidential decree on deepening the reforms to the

¹ [A/HRC/WG.6/44/AZE/1](#).

² [A/HRC/WG.6/44/AZE/2](#).

³ [A/HRC/WG.6/44/AZE/3](#) and [A/HRC/WG.6/44/AZE/3/Corr.1](#).

judicial and legal system had been signed in 2019 and that the law on the Judicial-Legal Council had been amended in 2023.

9. Azerbaijan provided information about the work of Agency for State Support of Non-Governmental Organizations, about the “e-government” portal and about the realization of the national action plan for the promotion of open government for 2020–2022, as well as information on the Azerbaijani anti-corruption brand, ASAN Service, and on the Agency for Sustainable and Operative Social Provision (DOST).

10. Azerbaijan also provided information about the amendments made to the Law on Freedom of Religion in 2021 and about the activity of the Department for Inter-Ethnic, Multicultural and Religious Affairs established under the Presidential Administration in 2019.

11. It was stressed that Azerbaijan had ended almost 30 years of illegal occupation of its territories, ensuring the norms and principles of international law, and had itself implemented four resolutions of the Security Council.

12. Azerbaijan stated that contrary to the trilateral statement of 10 November 2020, armed formations numbering more than 10,000 people continued to be illegally stationed in the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan.

13. Armenia raised a point of order, stating that, as one of the signatories to the 10 November 2020 trilateral ceasefire statement, it objected to the statement made by Azerbaijan, noting that the universal periodic review session was about the human rights situation of Azerbaijan. Armenia requested that the Vice-President of the Human Rights Council ask Azerbaijan to stick to the rules of the universal periodic review and not to divert the attention of the Council from its human rights record and from the ethnic cleansing that it had committed only two months earlier.

14. The Vice-President ruled that the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council was a unique intergovernmental forum in which the human rights situation of each State Member of the United Nations could be discussed in a spirit of cooperation, respect and transparency. That being the case, it was appropriate for all Member States to make comments and observations and to voice their opinion, as well as for the State under review to express its views. It was the responsibility of the State under review to prepare and deliver its introductory statement as a basis for the discussion in the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, and the delivery of statements in United Nations premises did not imply any official position on the part of the United Nations bodies on the issue at stake. It was important to avoid the bilateralization of what was a well-functioning multilateral process, and to remain within the legal framework set up by Council resolution 5/1 and the political framework established by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

15. In response, the head of the delegation of Azerbaijan stressed that he wondered how the representative of the country which for almost three decades had kept sovereign territories of Azerbaijan under occupation and had committed the most heinous crimes was speaking about ethnic cleansing, disregarding the fact that Armenia itself had ethnically cleansed the Azerbaijani territories it had kept under occupation, depriving more than 700,000 people of their right to return to their homes.

16. Armenia raised a point of order, stating that it categorically rejected any accusations about a so-called “occupation of territories”, as well as similar allegations included in the national report of Azerbaijan. Armenia reminded all States to use United Nations terminology when referring to Nagorno-Karabakh.

17. The Vice-President reiterated her ruling, and stated that the aim of the universal periodic review was not to discuss or settle disputes among Member States, and that issues of a political, bilateral or territorial nature should be kept out of deliberations. She noted that under rule 113 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, a representative rising to a point of order might not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion and should focus on procedural matters. The repeated use of points of order should be avoided.

18. In response, the head of the delegation of Azerbaijan stressed that one delegation was using international and regional platforms, including the universal periodic review

mechanism, to make baseless and biased allegations against Azerbaijan. It was the same country that for 30 years had not implemented Security Council resolutions demanding that Armenia withdraw all occupying forces from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

19. Azerbaijan had launched local counterterror measures in September 2023 to respond to the military provocations and subversive acts of illegally present armed formations. These had been conducted entirely within the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan to restore the constitutional order, aiming exclusively at military targets, not the civilian population.

20. Azerbaijan had restored full sovereignty over its internationally recognized territories and was in a position to declare that the Government could guarantee the full application of all international human rights treaties in the entirety of its territory. Azerbaijan had launched the peace initiative after the end of the 2020 war and had begun to actively promote the idea of normalization of relations between the two countries.

21. Azerbaijan gave information about the large-scale restoration and reconstruction works across the liberated territories, the Great Return Programme, and the socioeconomic development strategy of Azerbaijan for 2022–2026, and also provided statistical data on the current returning of families to the liberated territories and information on the plans envisaged for the following year.

22. Azerbaijan provided information about actions taken to protect cultural rights and heritage on a non-discriminatory basis, both during and after the second Garabagh war – measures to protect cultural rights and preserve cultural heritage on an equal basis, as well as cultural monuments in Garabagh, including by placing them under the protection of law enforcement bodies. This fact had also been observed by United Nations missions that had visited the area after the local counterterror measures.

23. Armenia raised a point of order, stating that in accordance with the Vice-President's rulings, politicized and conflict-related narratives should not be used.

24. In response, the head of the delegation of Azerbaijan asked the Vice-President to stop unsubstantiated and ill-founded statements made by the Armenian delegation, indicated that this was against the rules of procedure of the Human Rights Council and stressed that Armenia could only raise technical matters under the point of order. He also underlined that Armenia was continuing to misuse the platform in order to make allegations, and urged Armenia to return to the path of peace. The acts of Armenia carried out for the past 30 years had already led to the second Garabagh war, and today Azerbaijan was proposing to Armenia a peace agenda. During the meeting, Armenia was reacting to the occupation issue, even though the delegation of Azerbaijan had not mentioned that by name; it had been seen that Armenia felt its responsibility for the deeds committed during 30 years of occupation.

25. Azerbaijan provided information on the large-scale landmine problem and the hundreds of civilian victims, as well as on the more than 1.5 million landmines planted and the 8,250 square kilometres of territory contaminated by landmines and other explosive devices.

26. Azerbaijan stressed that during the first Garabagh war about 4,000 persons had gone missing. Out of the total number of missing persons, 872 had been taken as prisoners of war or had remained in the previously occupied territories. After the liberation of the territories within the past two years, 10 mass graves had been discovered as a result of excavations and witness testimonies. Following the urgent measures taken by the Government, 25 persons who had previously been considered as missing had been identified.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

27. During the interactive dialogue, 117 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

28. Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia,

Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein and Luxembourg made recommendations. Türkiye and Turkmenistan made statements. The complete version of the statements can be found in the webcast archived on the United Nations website.⁴

29. In response to the statements of some delegations, Azerbaijan noted that on numerous occasions, in particular at the highest level, it had reaffirmed the commitment to guarantee the rights and security of Armenians living in Garabagh. Those assurances had also been given before the International Court of Justice; by those assurances, the Government had committed to guarantee the rights and security of its citizens of Armenian origin.

30. Azerbaijani authorities had also created an official web portal for the reintegration of Armenian residents, which was available in four languages, including Armenian. That in itself represented the commitment of Azerbaijan both to facilitating the free, voluntary, safe and informed return of Armenians and to guaranteeing enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with all other citizens.

31. Despite the assurances given by Azerbaijan, in an attempt to prevent the reintegration efforts, a number of Internet providers in Armenia had blocked some of the Internet domains belonging to State agencies of Azerbaijan, including the above-mentioned portal for the registration of local Armenian residents.

32. Armenia raised a point of order, requesting that the Vice-President urge Azerbaijan to stick to the human rights situation of Azerbaijan.

33. The Vice-President recalled her ruling on the use of rule 113 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. She stated that a point of order should focus on procedural matters, and that discussing territorial issues was a substantive exercise, and that those issues should more appropriately be dealt with in other forums. The Vice-President also appealed to all speakers to voice their views in a respectful and dignified manner and to refrain from using the universal periodic review to deal with bilateral territorial issues.

34. In response, the head of the delegation of Azerbaijan stressed that it was unfortunate that, despite the changing realities on the ground and peace initiatives taken by Azerbaijan, Armenia was still full of hatred against Azerbaijan and Azerbaijanis and continued vigorously abusing different international and regional platforms to attack Azerbaijan. He stated that the present universal periodic review had become no exception in that regard.

35. In response to the statements of some delegations, Azerbaijan stressed that the Lachin road was designated for exclusively humanitarian purposes, in line with the trilateral statement of 10 November 2020. It had, however, been constantly abused to sustain a military presence in the sovereign territories of Azerbaijan, including for the smuggling of arms, munitions and landmines, as well as for the rotation of military personnel. The Lachin road was also misused for the illegal transfer of natural resources of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan had therefore installed the State border crossing point at Lachin, on its sovereign territory, to establish control over its own borders and to prevent the illegal activities of Armenia. The decision of 6 July 2023 of the International Court of Justice unanimously rejecting the appeal by Armenia for the checkpoint to be removed was further proof that the actions of Azerbaijan in that regard were clearly in line with international law.

⁴ At <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1s/k1s08wn6uk>.

36. Azerbaijan continued to facilitate the passage of Armenian residents, of personnel of the International Committee of the Red Cross, of the peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation and of humanitarian goods through the road. Azerbaijan had taken further actions to meet the humanitarian needs of Armenian residents. Proposed by Azerbaijani side, the Aghdam-Khankendi road had finally been opened, despite several objections from representatives of the local population, which was allowing further delivery of goods and medication to the area. Azerbaijan therefore stressed that all accusations about a so-called “blockade”, or attempts to create a link between the previous situation around the Lachin road and the subsequent movement of Armenians, were equally baseless, and in fact were part of a campaign of manipulation.

37. Azerbaijan stated that the Government was investigating all reports of alleged violations of humanitarian law and had duly informed the relevant international mechanisms. In contrast, the international community had closed its eyes to the grave violations of humanitarian law and human rights law during the first Garabagh war and 30 years of occupation. No due action had been taken to end impunity for the war crimes committed during the occupation.

38. In response to the statements made by some delegations, Azerbaijan urged those delegations to refrain from using unauthorized names of the region and to be in line with the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. Azerbaijan provided the correct names of all cities and towns that could be easily found.

39. The head of the delegation of Azerbaijan stressed that some delegations, such as France and others, had repeated allegations on issues that the delegation of Azerbaijan had already provided information on, which clearly showed that those delegations were using those issues only for an internal and politically motivated agenda.

40. In response to allegations of so-called “ethnic cleansings”, Azerbaijan stressed that any claim of that kind was groundless and false. Although some residents had decided to leave the Garabagh region on the basis of their individual choice, Azerbaijan had clearly and unambiguously confirmed that it was committed to creating appropriate conditions for them to stay and reintegrate. Azerbaijan had declared, on multiple occasions, that the ethnic Armenians residing in the Garabagh region had been welcomed to be part of that multicultural model.

41. The Government of Azerbaijan had outlined the plans for reintegration, which included specific measures designed to address security, municipal self-governance, socioeconomic development, and the enjoyment of human rights, in particular those related to education, culture and religion. Azerbaijan stated that the public testimonies of Armenian residents had confirmed that their decision to leave had been promoted by the puppet regime illegally created on the formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The anti-Azerbaijani campaign had been unleashed with the sole objective of creating misperceptions and misleading the international community.

42. In conclusion, Azerbaijan stressed that despite the general spirit of cooperation that always prevailed in the audience, sometimes it faced attempts at an abusive use of the procedure, and human rights manipulations by individual States. Therefore, Azerbaijan stated that any recommendations that were not based on established facts and reports received from credible sources did not contribute to the review process. In that context, Azerbaijan rejected the recommendations put forward by specific States, including by Armenia, that were built on falsehoods and reflected the biased and politicized approach resulting from a unilateral interpretation, as well as from the application of double standards, and were motivated by specific national interests, and thus did not comply with the spirit or the merits of the review as stipulated in Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21.

43. Irrespective of that, Azerbaijan considered the interactive dialogue to have been very engaging and productive, and expressed its readiness for further cooperation. The review had presented a valuable opportunity to exchange views on a wide range of issues of particular significance.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

- 44.1 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Burkina Faso);
- 44.2 Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Somalia);
- 44.3 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Liechtenstein);
- 44.4 Consolidate international commitments in the field of human rights, including the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Morocco);
- 44.5 Move towards the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Chile);
- 44.6 Intensify its efforts to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Mongolia);
- 44.7 Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Somalia) (Ukraine);
- 44.8 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina) (Niger) (Paraguay) (Spain) (Togo) (Uruguay);
- 44.9 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Burkina Faso);
- 44.10 Consider acceding to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (El Salvador);
- 44.11 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in its 2010 version (Liechtenstein);
- 44.12 Ratify the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) of the International Labour Organization (Togo);
- 44.13 Consider ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Sri Lanka);
- 44.14 Ratify the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Panama);
- 44.15 Consider ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Ukraine);
- 44.16 Sign and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Estonia);
- 44.17 Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Cyprus) (France) (Liechtenstein) (Romania);
- 44.18 Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), while developing comprehensive legislation to combat gender-based violence and discrimination (Luxembourg);
- 44.19 Continue dialogue and cooperation with the United Nations, specialized agencies and special procedure mandate holders (Pakistan);

- 44.20 Continue to actively cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and special procedures (Kyrgyzstan);
- 44.21 Cooperate fully with the United Nations special procedure mandate holders (Latvia);
- 44.22 Strengthen cooperation with international bodies for the promotion and protection of human rights (Saudi Arabia);
- 44.23 Continue to enhance cooperation with international partners in the human rights field (Uganda);
- 44.24 Implement the orders of the International Court of Justice of December 2021 (Armenia);
- 44.25 Continue its cooperation with human rights bodies and mechanisms at both the regional and international levels (Ethiopia);
- 44.26 Ensure further effective implementation of national action plans to implement the recommendations of the United Nations treaty bodies and special procedures (Uzbekistan);
- 44.27 Implement the resolutions of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe with regard to judgments adopted by the European Court of Human Rights (Germany);
- 44.28 Continue to constructively cooperate with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms to promote and protect human rights in the country and abroad (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 44.29 Proceed with the immediate and correct implementation of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, legally binding on all Council of Europe Member States (Belgium);
- 44.30 Implement the European Court of Human Rights case law and judgments at the national level (Cyprus);
- 44.31 Fully comply with the obligation to abide by judgments of the European Court of Human Rights and take measures to execute them (Liechtenstein);
- 44.32 Continue the training of judges, lawyers and police officers on legal instruments for promoting human rights (Mali);
- 44.33 Continue work to bring Azerbaijan's domestic legislative framework in line with its international obligations (Russian Federation);
- 44.34 Review current regulations to adapt them to international standards (Spain);
- 44.35 Continue legal and institutional reform efforts related to human rights (Sudan);
- 44.36 Continue its efforts to promote and protect human civil, economic and cultural rights (Yemen);
- 44.37 Continue efforts in raising awareness on human rights among civil servants and officials of the law enforcement agencies (Bangladesh);
- 44.38 Continue to implement national policies and programmes aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities (Egypt);
- 44.39 Strengthen further its institutional framework with a view to protecting human rights (Ethiopia);
- 44.40 Continue efforts to promote and protect civil, economic and cultural rights (India);
- 44.41 Continue working together with civil society organizations and other related stakeholders to develop capacities of government officials, at national and local levels (Indonesia);

- 44.42 Continue to develop and bring national legislation in the field of protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms into international standards (Kyrgyzstan);
- 44.43 Continue to enhance the conducting of mandatory and continuing human rights education and training for law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges (Philippines);
- 44.44 Strengthen the institutional capacities of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children (Burkina Faso);
- 44.45 Repeal article 7.4 of the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence (Iceland);
- 44.46 Implement effectively the National Action Plan in the field of human rights, with the participation of civil society and national human rights institutions (Kazakhstan);
- 44.47 Enhance the institutional capacity of Azerbaijan's National Human Rights Institution (Malawi);
- 44.48 Ensure that the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner carries out its functions in accordance with the Paris Principles (Mexico);
- 44.49 Strengthen the institutional independence of the Office of the Commissioner and ensure that it carries out its mandate in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Montenegro);
- 44.50 Continue to strengthen the institution of the Ombudsman (Zimbabwe);
- 44.51 Take all necessary measures to ensure the proper functioning and full independence of the National Human Rights Commission, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Djibouti);
- 44.52 Support and strengthen the independence of its National Human Rights Institution to ensure compliance with the Paris Principles, as well as the Office of the Ombudsman (Gambia);
- 44.53 Further strengthen its Office of the Human Rights Commissioner in accordance with the Paris Principles (Mongolia);
- 44.54 Take the necessary measures to bring the National Human Rights Commission into compliance with the Paris Principles (Niger);
- 44.55 Take further measures to ensure compliance of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights in Azerbaijan with the Paris Principles (Qatar);
- 44.56 Strengthen measures to upgrade its national human rights institution to category "A" in line with the Paris Principles (Nepal);
- 44.57 Strengthen the Working Group for the preparation of reports as a National Implementation, Reporting and Monitoring Mechanism, considering the possibility of receiving cooperation for this purpose (Paraguay);
- 44.58 Continue to strengthen national mechanisms to ensure equality for all and eliminate all forms of discrimination on the grounds of sex and race (Uganda);
- 44.59 Move towards a regulatory framework to combat racism and all forms of discrimination (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 44.60 Strengthen the legislative and constitutional framework to combat all forms of racial discrimination (Morocco);
- 44.61 Take appropriate measures to combat and eliminate discrimination based on ethnic, religious, linguistic or other grounds, revise its legislation in this area to bring it into conformity with international human rights norms and standards and adopt the law on the prevention and abolition of racial discrimination (Switzerland);

- 44.62 Take measures to strengthen the legal aid system, with a view to increasing the resources available to victims of racial discrimination (Peru);
- 44.63 Enhance efforts to fight against all forms of discrimination (Italy);
- 44.64 Investigate properly cases of torture and ill-treatment of individuals detained by the police and other armed forces (Slovakia);
- 44.65 Develop mechanisms to combat cases of torture, ill-treatment and arbitrary detention, in line with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Spain);
- 44.66 Cease arbitrary arrests of those critical of the Government and release those held on politically motivated charges (Australia);
- 44.67 Immediately and unconditionally release all prisoners arrested on political grounds (Norway);
- 44.68 Hold perpetrators of torture accountable (United States of America);
- 44.69 Investigate allegations of ill-treatment within the Azerbaijani criminal justice system and hold perpetrators to account (Australia);
- 44.70 Investigate thoroughly and impartially all allegations of torture and ill-treatment against prisoners and detainees (Greece);
- 44.71 Investigate thoroughly and impartially all allegations of torture and ill-treatment and hold perpetrators accountable (Cyprus);
- 44.72 Provide systematic training to its military personnel on its obligations under human rights and humanitarian law, as recommended by the Economic and Social Council (Mauritius);
- 44.73 Comply with its obligations under international humanitarian law, ensuring protection of the civilian population, and respect for their human rights in conflict zones (Paraguay);
- 44.74 Provide training to its military and law enforcement forces on State obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law (Portugal);
- 44.75 Investigate immediately allegations of illegal killings and torture by Azerbaijani soldiers during the 2020 war with Armenia and during fighting in September 2022 (Australia);
- 44.76 Investigate promptly, impartially and transparently all allegations of arbitrary arrest and detention of political activists and civil society actors, including arbitrarily detained ethnic Armenians, and develop transparent processes to ensure ready access to legal representation in accordance with international humanitarian law (Canada);
- 44.77 Guarantee the security of Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh and full respect for their fundamental rights and freedoms (France);
- 44.78 Train law enforcement and security officers on their obligations to respect the principles of distinction and proportionality (Togo);
- 44.79 Facilitate an on-site visit by UNESCO to Nagorno-Karabakh to monitor and draw up an inventory of cultural heritage (Cyprus);
- 44.80 Ensure the implementation of the right of the Armenian refugees to return to Nagorno-Karabakh safely and in dignity, ensure the protection of their property and housing rights and prevent and punish acts of vandalism and desecration affecting Armenian cultural heritage (Greece);
- 44.81 Take further steps to ensure justice, accountability and provision of remedies to the relatives of missing Azerbaijanis from the first Nagorno-Karabakh war (Pakistan);

- 44.82 Ensure the safety and human rights of ethnic Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh, including their right to return without being exposed to threats or discrimination (Sweden);
- 44.83 Guarantee the right of voluntary and lasting return of Armenians from Karabakh in complete safety and dignity, their property rights, as well as the protection of cultural and religious property in accordance with international obligations (Switzerland);
- 44.84 Release and repatriate Armenian prisoners of war and civilian detainees (Armenia);
- 44.85 Promote training of the armed forces on the obligations of the State in matters of human rights (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 44.86 Release all Armenian prisoners of war from the 2020 Karabakh war (Canada);
- 44.87 Guarantee full amnesty for all Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh, including their representatives (France);
- 44.88 Respect international human rights law and international humanitarian law in the situations of armed hostilities (Latvia);
- 44.89 Secure the rights and fundamental freedoms of all minorities, including ethnic Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh (Norway);
- 44.90 Facilitate, in relation to Nagorno-Karabakh, the safe and voluntary return of displaced Armenians to their homes (Ecuador);
- 44.91 Protect the cultural heritage and property rights of Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh (France);
- 44.92 Strengthen the protection of minorities, in particular of Karabakh Armenians, creating the conditions for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of Armenian refugees to Nagorno-Karabakh (Italy);
- 44.93 Investigate the violations of human rights and humanitarian law committed against Armenians, and ensure accountability for perpetrators and justice for victims (Armenia);
- 44.94 Investigate the fate and whereabouts of Armenian missing persons and enforced disappearances (Armenia);
- 44.95 Protect Armenian cultural and religious heritage from destruction (Armenia);
- 44.96 Investigate the cases of mercenaries deployed to support armed forces of Azerbaijan (Armenia);
- 44.97 Adopt measures to ensure the safety and rights of Karabakh Armenians, in order to support their right to return, and adopt measures to ensure protection of the property rights and cultural heritage of Karabakh Armenians (Kingdom of the Netherlands);
- 44.98 Welcome a dedicated, independent, international monitoring mission to provide transparency and reassurance that the human rights of ethnic Armenians will be respected, including those who may wish to return to Nagorno-Karabakh (United States of America);
- 44.99 Take the necessary measures to ensure that persons fleeing situations of armed conflict, generalized violence or serious disturbances of public order have access to adequate protection in the context of the national refugee procedure (Uruguay);
- 44.100 Ensure conditions for safe and dignified return of Armenian refugees (Armenia);
- 44.101 Ensure conditions for safe and dignified return of Armenian refugees to Nagorno-Karabakh (Cyprus);

- 44.102 Continue supporting the national action plan to combat the legalization of property acquired through criminal means and the financing of terrorism, for 2023–2025 (Jordan);
- 44.103 Continue efforts to implement the National Action Plan to Strengthen the Fight against Corruption for the period 2022–2026 (Qatar);
- 44.104 Continue its efforts to eliminate corruption through implementation of its National Action Plan for Strengthening the Fight Against Corruption 2022–2026 (Malaysia);
- 44.105 Continue its efforts in strengthening the fight against corruption (Singapore);
- 44.106 Continue its efforts in ensuring the transparency and efficiency of public services for citizens by introducing more projects such as electronic signature and e-government (Viet Nam);
- 44.107 Take specific measures to effectively combat corruption in public administration, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16.6 (Angola);
- 44.108 Continue strengthening efforts in the fight against corruption (El Salvador);
- 44.109 Strengthen the capacity of the Anti-Corruption Department and law enforcement agencies to combat corruption in all sectors (Romania);
- 44.110 Continue strengthening efforts to guarantee the independence and the impartiality of the judiciary (Timor-Leste);
- 44.111 Promote the independence of the judiciary through in-depth political and legal reforms (Zambia);
- 44.112 Continue relevant reforms aimed at increasing the number of qualified lawyers in the country (Cameroon);
- 44.113 Ensure that provisions of the Lawyers' Code of Conduct that interfere with lawyers' right to freedom of expression and other human rights are amended to adhere to international standards (Norway);
- 44.114 Take appropriate measures to guarantee the independence and impartiality of the judiciary (Romania);
- 44.115 Continue work aimed at the improvement of the penitentiary system (Uzbekistan);
- 44.116 Investigate thoroughly and impartially all allegations of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, prosecuting those responsible and ensuring full reparations for victims (Chile);
- 44.117 Guarantee the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and strengthen the criminal justice system, including by improving the execution of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (Finland);
- 44.118 Guarantee the right to a fair trial for all without distinction of any kind, including language, religion or political opinion (France);
- 44.119 Reverse the implementation of the media law from 2022 to ensure freedom of expression and adhere to European Council's standards for freedom of expression and of the media (Norway);
- 44.120 Take concrete steps to decriminalize defamation and libel (Sierra Leone);
- 44.121 Remove the excessive restrictions concerning the registration of and access to grants by NGOs (Slovakia);
- 44.122 Ensure full respect of the rights to freedom of expression, freedom of association and peaceful assembly, as previously recommended (Slovenia);

- 44.123 End all politically motivated legal proceedings against government critics and independent civil society actors, including journalists, human rights defenders, and lawyers (Sweden);
- 44.124 Apply the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, as well as the recommendations of the Venice Commission and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, on the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly (Switzerland);
- 44.125 Ensure that all allegations of human rights violations against human rights defenders, civil society activists and journalists, as well as detained foreign nationals, are investigated effectively in transparency, including pending unresolved cases requiring urgent attention (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 44.126 Remove restrictions on the full exercise of peaceful assembly, including in Baku (Costa Rica);
- 44.127 Address concerns about registration and access to funding for civil society organizations to ensure they can play the needed role without fear of persecution (Czechia);
- 44.128 Ensure equal participation in political and public life, without fear and intimidation, for persons with independent and opposition views (Germany);
- 44.129 Take steps to cease restrictions on the right to freedom of assembly, in line with international law (Ghana);
- 44.130 Refrain from arbitrary detention of journalists and independently investigate all instances of attacks, threats and harassment against journalists, political activists and human rights defenders, and bring those responsible to justice (Greece);
- 44.131 Continue to empower and support the newly established Media Development Agency in its activities aimed at raising the efficiency of journalists (Jordan);
- 44.132 Take the necessary steps to repeal any legal provisions that restrict the operations of NGOs, including their registration and ability to seek grants (Kenya);
- 44.133 Adopt measures to ensure the safety of human rights defenders, civil society organizations, journalists and political organizations without fear of harassment or reprisals (Kingdom of the Netherlands);
- 44.134 Ensure respect for the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and association, including by taking into account the recommendations of the Venice Commission, when implementing the new Laws on Media and on Political Parties (Sweden);
- 44.135 Remove articles 147 and 148 from the Criminal Code which stipulate liability against journalists for slander and insult, as committed to by Azerbaijan in 2001 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 44.136 Immediately release all persons incarcerated for exercising their human rights and remove undue restrictions on NGOs, media outlets, political parties, religious activists, and lawyers (United States of America);
- 44.137 Take concrete measures to align the national legal framework regarding the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly with its international obligations, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Belgium);
- 44.138 Refrain from breaking up peaceful protests by unnecessary or excessive force, or arbitrarily detaining activists (Costa Rica);
- 44.139 Strengthen freedom of the press by amending those parts of the Media Law which overregulate requirements for professional journalists (Czechia);

- 44.140 **Guarantee freedom of expression, access to information and plurality of the media (Finland);**
- 44.141 **Create a safe and enabling environment for civil society actors, human rights defenders and political opponents, and repeal any legal provisions that unduly restrict their activities (Ireland);**
- 44.142 **Guarantee the full exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, to ensure an effective political pluralism (Italy);**
- 44.143 **Cease the regulatory and judicial persecution of human rights defenders, journalists, political opponents or activists for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly (Latvia);**
- 44.144 **Improve the agency on promoting small and medium enterprises (Lebanon);**
- 44.145 **Take measures to end acts of intimidation, surveillance and harassment, threats and reprisals against human rights defenders, members of civil society organizations and journalists (Luxembourg);**
- 44.146 **Repeal any legal provisions that unduly restrict the activities of non-governmental organizations, including in relation to their registration and access to grants (Montenegro);**
- 44.147 **Fully guarantee freedom of expression by measures including, but not limited to, aligning all media legislation with relevant international human rights standards (Slovakia);**
- 44.148 **Ensure effective, prompt and independent investigations of all cases of harassment and violence against civil society organizations, lawyers, journalists, human rights defenders or activists, and bring perpetrators to justice (Uruguay);**
- 44.149 **Encourage political pluralism by amending the Law on Political Parties to eliminate those measures which might be too restrictive for freedom of association (Czechia);**
- 44.150 **Protect the right of human rights defenders and journalists to undertake their legitimate work without harassment, intimidation or reprisals (Finland);**
- 44.151 **Revoke all legal provisions that unduly restrict civil society activities aimed at protecting human rights (Luxembourg);**
- 44.152 **Revise the social media law to ensure compliance with international human rights law and protect the operations of civil society organization activists and journalists (Canada);**
- 44.153 **Ensure that independent civil society groups are able to operate without undue interference or fear of reprisals or persecution by the Government (Chile);**
- 44.154 **Protect and promote freedom of opinion and expression and media freedom and ensure that all relevant legislation is in line with international standards (Estonia);**
- 44.155 **Repeal the Media Law and all legislative measures aimed at restricting freedoms of expression and the press (France);**
- 44.156 **End the practice of illegal covert surveillance, including through the use of Pegasus and similar spywares against journalists, activists, lawyers, government opponents and human rights defenders (Costa Rica);**
- 44.157 **Continue to strengthen efforts to provide the necessary support and protection for the family, as it is the natural and fundamental unit of society (Egypt);**

- 44.158 Provide full support to the institution of the family and step up efforts to ensure freedom of religion for all confessions in the country (Russian Federation);
- 44.159 Increase efforts to combat human trafficking and protect the victims (Nepal);
- 44.160 Redouble efforts to combat human trafficking, through measures aimed at reducing the demand for commercial sex and by strengthening mechanisms to collect data on trafficking in women and girls from Azerbaijan, in its territory or being sent there (Peru);
- 44.161 Take further measures to combat trafficking in persons, including child trafficking, and for implementation of the National Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Persons 2020–2024 (Sri Lanka);
- 44.162 Continue efforts to combat human trafficking and to provide protection and support to victims of trafficking, especially children (Algeria);
- 44.163 Further strengthen mechanisms mandated to prevent and combat human trafficking, especially investigative and judicial bodies tasked to hold perpetrators accountable before the law (Philippines);
- 44.164 Continue the implementation of activities to combat human trafficking and support victims, especially women and children, including within the framework of the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking for 2020–2024 (Belarus);
- 44.165 Intensify efforts to combat human trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation, particularly women, boys and girls (Paraguay);
- 44.166 Strengthen efforts aimed at combating human trafficking, ensuring the rights of victims, and providing them with protection and assistance (Qatar);
- 44.167 Continue efforts to combat all forms of human trafficking, and protect victims (Tunisia);
- 44.168 Continue and intensify efforts to implement the National Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons (2020–2024) with a greater focus on the prevention, protection and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking (Djibouti);
- 44.169 Strengthen its efforts to combat, prevent, eradicate and punish practices of human trafficking and forced labour against all persons (Gambia);
- 44.170 Further implement a whole-of-society approach to its policies on combating trafficking in persons (Indonesia);
- 44.171 Continue the policy of preventing illegal jobs by supporting the legalization of labour relations and encouraging workers to conclude employment contracts (Bahrain);
- 44.172 Expand the work of the Department of Science and Technology in order to address citizens' claims related to labour rights violations (Cameroon);
- 44.173 Make further efforts to improve working conditions and social protection for individuals (Iraq);
- 44.174 Work to strengthen and activate the work of the Centre for Legal Expertise and Legislative Initiatives to improve the quality of rule-making, and develop the knowledge, skills and competencies of public officials in the country (Jordan);
- 44.175 Increase projects within the framework of job creation for young people (Burundi);
- 44.176 Maintain and build on the achievements in the framework of the rural youth employment programme (Kyrgyzstan);
- 44.177 Enhance efforts to ensure that social protection is adaptive to the various risks, including changes in the economy and labour markets (Brunei Darussalam);

- 44.178 Continue efforts to adjust the levels of social protection measures, and allocate the necessary human, technical and financial resources and training to strengthen the administrative capacity of the social services (Hungary);
- 44.179 Continue strengthening social protection systems and increase social benefits for the unemployed, persons with disabilities and the elderly (Maldives);
- 44.180 Develop social security mechanisms, especially for low-income families, including pensions and programmes to improve the living conditions of retired workers (Brazil);
- 44.181 Strengthen the important role of the family unit and community in supporting social protection services (Brunei Darussalam);
- 44.182 Continue to take measures to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor and provide assistance to low-income families (China);
- 44.183 Intensify efforts to provide adequate social protection to all vulnerable groups (Zimbabwe);
- 44.184 Strengthen ongoing initiatives aimed at improving the economic and social well-being of citizens, in particular their health and education (Saudi Arabia);
- 44.185 Continue effective implementation of national programmes to support all socially vulnerable segments of the population (Uzbekistan);
- 44.186 Continue to introduce information technologies as part of improving the efficiency of public services (Belarus);
- 44.187 Continue to improve the economic and social well-being of its citizens by reducing the poverty rate and increasing wages and social benefits (Cuba);
- 44.188 Continue to develop and implement national policies and strategies that seek to promote and guarantee the enjoyment of human rights by ensuring a high standard of living for the people (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 44.189 Continue measures to improve the equitable enjoyment of socioeconomic rights by vulnerable communities (Burundi);
- 44.190 Develop social assistance programmes for families, particularly for those in vulnerable situations (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 44.191 Continue efforts to guarantee basic services to people living in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 44.192 Intensify efforts towards reducing maternal and child mortality, increasing safe births, preventing infections during pregnancy, and providing quality medical care for newborns (Nigeria);
- 44.193 Approve without further delay the draft law on reproductive health and family planning, as well as the national strategy on reproductive health and family planning (Panama);
- 44.194 Continue further the implementation of the State programmes on the protection of maternal and child health (Tajikistan);
- 44.195 Continue to take measures to ensure health-care access, including measures to address barriers impeding access for women to reproductive health-care services (Bhutan);
- 44.196 Redouble efforts to improve health-care facilities in rural areas (Burundi);
- 44.197 Ensure the availability and accessibility of sexual and reproductive human rights services, including family planning and modern contraceptives (Iceland);
- 44.198 Continue its investment to develop and improve health care and infrastructure in rural and remote areas (Islamic Republic of Iran);

- 44.199 Support social services and provide comprehensive health care, especially for the most vulnerable people in society, within the framework of national strategic plans (Libya);
- 44.200 Consider increasing public health spending to reduce infant and maternal mortality, and other preventable deaths (Sierra Leone);
- 44.201 Continue consolidating measures aimed at improving the availability and quality of medical services for its population, with emphasis on the most vulnerable sectors (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 44.202 Take concrete steps to assess the effects on children's health of polluted air, water and soil (Bahamas);
- 44.203 Adopt and implement the law and the national strategy on reproductive health and family planning, including by providing a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum in schools (Estonia);
- 44.204 Provide age-appropriate sexuality education in and out of schools (Iceland);
- 44.205 Continue measures to ensure an adequate number of qualified medical personnel in prisons (Cuba);
- 44.206 Continue to develop and implement policies and initiatives to build and improve health-care infrastructure in rural and remote areas (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 44.207 Continue to build and improve health-care infrastructure in rural and remote areas (Ethiopia);
- 44.208 Enact the draft law and the national strategy on reproductive health and family planning, and criminalize all forms of gender-based violence, in particular domestic violence (Mexico);
- 44.209 Intensify efforts to ensure universal and equal access to quality primary and secondary education throughout the country (Maldives);
- 44.210 Continue to increase the allocations to education in the State budget (United Arab Emirates);
- 44.211 Further guarantee equal access to education and development for all (Viet Nam);
- 44.212 Strengthen laws and regulations to improve the quality access to education and health care, in particular for internally displaced persons and other groups of people in vulnerable situations (Indonesia);
- 44.213 Promote an approach based on sustainable development goals in taking the necessary measures to advance the right to education (Kuwait);
- 44.214 Increase the education budget to provide learners with inclusive, equitable and quality education (Mali);
- 44.215 Continue efforts to promote the education sector and develop educational services (Tunisia);
- 44.216 Include human rights and children's rights in school curricula (United Arab Emirates);
- 44.217 Continue efforts to improve the quality of education in public schools while striving to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (Algeria);
- 44.218 Consider increased resource allocation to ensure universal and quality primary and secondary education throughout the country (Bhutan);
- 44.219 Continue its efforts to promote, protect and realize the right to education for all as a national priority (Cambodia);
- 44.220 Continue to increase its resource allocation to education for ensuring universal and equal access to quality and inclusive primary and secondary education throughout the country (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

- 44.221 Consider allocating more resources to education to ensure universal and equal access to quality and inclusive primary and secondary education in the country (Sierra Leone);
- 44.222 Continue funding the provision of educational infrastructure and learning materials to ensure access to quality education for all children (Zimbabwe);
- 44.223 Promote initiatives to incorporate human rights principles in education and strengthen mechanisms to combat hate speech (Ecuador);
- 44.224 Increase its resource allocation to education in order to ensure equal access to quality and inclusive primary and secondary education throughout the country (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 44.225 Consider allocating additional resources towards ensuring universal and equal access to primary and secondary education (Sri Lanka);
- 44.226 Continue to promote initiatives aimed at strengthening capacities to align national institutions with the Sustainable Development Goals (Bahrain);
- 44.227 Continue to promote economic and social development in accordance with the National Priority of Socioeconomic Development 2030 (Cambodia);
- 44.228 Continue to promote sustainable socioeconomic development to lay a solid foundation for the enjoyment of all human rights by its people (China);
- 44.229 Continue efforts to promote the right to development at the national, regional and international levels (India);
- 44.230 Continue socioeconomic measures in order to improve the well-being of the population through implementation of “National Priorities of Socioeconomic Development: Azerbaijan 2030” (Tajikistan);
- 44.231 Continue implementation of the project on the development of smart cities and villages (India);
- 44.232 Share its best practices in the delivery of public services with other countries through joint collaborative capacity-building programmes (Malaysia);
- 44.233 Continue efforts aimed at improving the multiculturalism model of Azerbaijan and share best practices to this end (Israel);
- 44.234 Continue efforts to cooperate with international partners, in line with national priorities and strategies (Cuba);
- 44.235 Continue to participate in the international exchange of best practices in promoting and protecting human rights (Tajikistan);
- 44.236 Step up efforts to promote gender equality in the public and private sectors and effectively combat domestic violence (Philippines);
- 44.237 Continue its efforts to prevent gender discrimination and improve employment opportunities for women (Singapore);
- 44.238 Pursue efforts to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment (Tunisia);
- 44.239 Accelerate reforms to eliminate the wage gap between men and women (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 44.240 Continue advancing in the fight against inequality between men and women, through the inclusion of the gender approach in all spheres of social life (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 44.241 Make additional efforts in combating discrimination against women (Angola);
- 44.242 Adopt and implement relevant policies that will recognize the role of women in society for the realization of Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Botswana);

- 44.243 **Develop gender equality public policies to improve women's access to more qualified jobs and reduce gender pay gaps (Brazil);**
- 44.244 **Step up further efforts to stimulate the development of women's entrepreneurship and increase the share of women among small and medium-sized entrepreneurs (Bulgaria);**
- 44.245 **Take the necessary measures to ensure the effective implementation of gender equality policies (Ecuador);**
- 44.246 **Continue with ongoing efforts to promote and protect women's rights, including through finalization of the National Action Plan on Gender Equality for 2020–2025 (Georgia);**
- 44.247 **Further promote and protect women's rights and consider ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Italy);**
- 44.248 **Continue its good efforts to promote gender equality and to promote women's representation at all levels of private, public and economic life (Kazakhstan);**
- 44.249 **Strengthen the implementation of the national strategy and action plans on gender equality (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 44.250 **Continue to take the measures necessary to empower women in the public and private sectors (Lebanon);**
- 44.251 **Reform labour laws and remove obstacles to women's employment and bridge the gender pay gaps (Nepal);**
- 44.252 **Continue the implementation of action plans to reduce inequality between men and women, showing the strengthening of its public policies focused on the well-being of its entire population and without discrimination of any kind (Nicaragua);**
- 44.253 **Continue efforts to strengthen equality between men and women and to protect the rights of national minorities (Russian Federation);**
- 44.254 **Continue policies for the advancement of women and to enhance their participation in political and public life (Sudan);**
- 44.255 **Increase the number of female appointments in the executive, to head ministries and State institutions (Zambia);**
- 44.256 **Enhance support for the social and economic development of rural women and girls, including through increased access to basic services, land, education, employment opportunities and health care (Zimbabwe);**
- 44.257 **Develop strategies that promote gender equality and encourage women to participate in public life (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**
- 44.258 **Continue efforts to promote the policy of eliminating inequalities between men and women by taking effective measures to increase women's participation in political and public life (Djibouti);**
- 44.259 **Continue its efforts to increase the number of appointments of women to the public sector and in order to achieve improved political participation and decision-making (Kenya);**
- 44.260 **Continue efforts to enhance the role of women in political, social and economic development (Kuwait);**
- 44.261 **Continue to safeguard the rights and well-being of women, especially those in rural and vulnerable communities (Malaysia);**
- 44.262 **Undertake systematic efforts to transform harmful gender norms, behaviours and practices, and develop and operationalize a robust system to monitor the effects of these measures (Panama);**

- 44.263 Ensure access for rural women and girls to education, employment opportunities and health care (Bahamas);
- 44.264 Implement a national strategy for gender equality with sufficient resources to eradicate patriarchal attitudes and discriminatory gender stereotypes, including on the roles and responsibilities of men and women in families and society (Costa Rica);
- 44.265 Continue its efforts to address all forms of violence against women and girls effectively, to promote gender equality, and to increase women's representation in political and public life (Mongolia);
- 44.266 Provide access to effective remedies, means of protection and assistance, including accommodation or shelters and other support services, to survivors of domestic violence in all parts of the country (Belgium);
- 44.267 Take effective preventive measures to combat violence against women as well as domestic violence and provide adequate and sufficient support to victims, including shelters (Finland);
- 44.268 Establish specialized rape crisis centres that provide 24/7 forensic testing for victims of sexual assault (Ireland);
- 44.269 Continue to take all steps in combating gender-based violence (Malawi);
- 44.270 Consider taking further necessary measures to ensure the elimination and prevention of violence against women and children (Nigeria);
- 44.271 Evaluate measures to reduce the incidence of gender-based violence, particularly domestic violence (Peru);
- 44.272 Take effective measures to combat all forms of violence against women, including by strengthening complaint mechanisms for victims and ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Portugal);
- 44.273 Enhance support services for survivors of gender-based violence (Timor-Leste);
- 44.274 Strengthen measures to combat domestic violence and violence against women, including through the effective implementation of legislation to ensure justice for victims (Ghana);
- 44.275 Adopt necessary legislation in the Criminal Code to criminalize all forms of domestic violence (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 44.276 Adopt legislation criminalizing violence against women, ensure thorough investigations into acts of violence, and provide appropriate training to police and the judiciary (Canada);
- 44.277 Continue and emphasize the strengthening of measures to combat violence against children (Senegal);
- 44.278 Consider strengthening the monitoring of the informal sector of the economy, preventive work with families and capacity-building of relevant stakeholders to eliminate all forms of child labour (Serbia);
- 44.279 Continue strengthening the legal framework for the protection of children, especially in early childhood, in the context of the "Strategy on Children for 2020–2030" (El Salvador);
- 44.280 Intensify efforts aimed at improving the conditions of children in rural areas (Iraq);
- 44.281 Redouble efforts to prevent trafficking in children and improve the protection of those in vulnerable situations (Ecuador);

- 44.282 Put in place and strengthen mechanisms combating and preventing discrimination against girls, children with disabilities, children born to foreign or stateless fathers and other vulnerable children from minority groups to avoid marginalization (Gambia);
- 44.283 Establish mechanisms to promote mandatory reporting and multi-agency intervention in cases of violence against children (Hungary);
- 44.284 Continue efforts to promote and protect children's rights, especially those related to education and health (Libya);
- 44.285 Progressively adopt necessary legal and policy measures to end child marriages (Malawi);
- 44.286 Enact legislation that expressly prohibits, and strengthens the capacity to prevent, corporal punishment inflicted on children in all settings, public and private, including homes, schools and day-care centres (Argentina);
- 44.287 Adopt legislation to explicitly prohibit and prevent corporal punishment in all settings (Estonia);
- 44.288 Continue the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities (Nicaragua);
- 44.289 Ensure access to quality health care and education for children with disabilities (Bahamas);
- 44.290 Strengthen the legal framework aimed at the inclusion of persons with disabilities to improve the accessibility of public infrastructure and the incorporation of persons with disabilities into the labour market (Mexico);
- 44.291 Take steps to improve the current disability legislation by replacing some derogatory expressions with new modern terms that reflect equality (Botswana);
- 44.292 Continue activities to provide children with disabilities with equal access to education at all levels and a favourable environment for inclusive education (Bulgaria);
- 44.293 Continue and intensify implementation of its policies and programmes aimed at further improving access to inclusive education for children with disabilities (Georgia);
- 44.294 Increase its efforts to promote and support the human rights of persons with disabilities (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 44.295 Adopt a national human rights-based policy on persons with disabilities with a social approach instead of a medical approach that supports the full exercise of the legal capacity of persons with psychosocial disabilities (Costa Rica);
- 44.296 Work towards fair and equitable representation of ethnic minorities, including women, in the public sector, elective bodies, and decision-making and high-ranking positions (Senegal);
- 44.297 Strengthen the protection of minorities (Cameroon);
- 44.298 Protect the Armenian minority and reassure through concrete actions that the constitutional and legal protections for minorities fully apply also to Armenians (Germany);
- 44.299 Prevent incitement to racial hatred and discrimination, including by officials and public institutions, targeted at persons of Armenian national or ethnic origin (Greece);
- 44.300 Stop incitement of anti-Armenian hatred and intolerance (Armenia);
- 44.301 Ensure the rights and security of members of minorities, including Armenians, and guarantee and protect their cultural and religious heritage (Liechtenstein);

- 44.302 **Adopt the necessary measures to combat acts of violence and discrimination against LGBTIQ+ persons, and intensify measures to ensure the investigation and punishment of such acts, as previously recommended. Also advance in measures regarding gender identity and civil rights related to same-sex unions (Argentina);**
- 44.303 **Develop training, education and awareness-raising campaigns and conduct training for the judiciary and police in particular, with a view to improving their capacity to better respond to hate speech and hate crimes on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (Israel);**
- 44.304 **Adopt a comprehensive law to prevent and eliminate discrimination, including discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (Mexico);**
- 44.305 **Include sexual orientation in its legislation as a ground of discrimination, offering protection against hate crimes (Spain);**
- 44.306 **Adopt a broadly applicable anti-discrimination law that includes discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics (Chile);**
- 44.307 **Amend the Family Code to include all forms of families, including same-sex couples (Iceland);**
- 44.308 **Introduce a transparent self-identification process for legal gender recognition, free from medical or diagnostic requirements (Iceland);**
- 44.309 **Ensure the rights and freedoms of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons against all forms of discrimination and violence (France);**
- 44.310 **Ban conversion therapies (Iceland);**
- 44.311 **Respect intersex children's right to self-determination and ban unnecessary surgeries (Iceland);**
- 44.312 **Step up efforts to guarantee the rights of migrant workers, including those in an irregular situation (Niger);**
- 44.313 **Take further measures for the promotion and protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families (Sri Lanka);**
- 44.314 **Strengthen measures aiming at recognition and restoration of the rights of refugees and their safe and dignified return to their home country, including an effective international verification and guarantees mechanism to this end (Bangladesh);**
- 44.315 **Continue restoration and reconstruction of territories liberated from the occupation for the safe and dignified return of internally displaced persons (Pakistan);**
- 44.316 **Respect, protect and implement the right to safe return of the recently displaced ethnic Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh (Canada);**
- 44.317 **Create the conditions for a voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return to Nagorno-Karabakh of refugees and displaced persons (France);**
- 44.318 **Continue to strengthen social support and reintegration programmes for internally displaced persons returning to liberated territories (Belarus);**
- 44.319 **Strengthen its efforts to resolve the remaining statelessness cases, including by developing and adopting a legislative framework for a statelessness determination procedure (Montenegro).**
45. **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 Azerbaijan was headed by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Samir Sharifov and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Mr. Galib Israfilov, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Elshad Iskandarov, Ambassador at Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Ismat Aliyev, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs;
- Mr. Hidayat Abdullayev, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the population;
- Ms. Saadat Yusifova, Deputy Minister of Culture;
- Mr. Ilgar Gasimov, Deputy Minister of Health;
- Mr. Chingiz Asgarov, Deputy Chief of the Supreme Court;
- Ms. Sadagat Gahramanova, Deputy Chair of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs;
- Mr. Sayavush Heydarov, Deputy Chair of the State Committee on Religious Associations;
- Mr. Fuad Huseynov, Deputy Chair of the State Committee for Affairs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons;
- Mr. Rashad Hasanov, Head of the Department for International law and Treaties of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Aynur Sabitova, Head of the Department for Human Rights and Communications of the Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Tural Ahmadov, Head of the Department for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Science and Education;
- Mr. Elnur Musayev, Head of the Department for Non-Criminal Proceedings of the General Prosecutor's Office;
- Mr. Vahid Gahramanov, Head of the Department for Migration Policy and Legal Support of the State Migration Service;
- Mr. Allahverdi Pashayev, Deputy Head of the Administration of the Ministry of Economy;
- Mr. Eldar Samadov, Deputy Head of the Working Group of the State Commission on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons;
- Mr. Ramil Azizov, Head of the Department for International Relations, Education and Press of the Mine Action Agency;
- Mr. Javid Aliyev, Head of the Department for Internal Control and Audit of the Ministry of Culture;
- Mr. Rashad Ibadov, Dean of the School of Law of the ADA University;
- Ms. Dilara Abdullayeva, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva;
- Ms. Gunay Akhundova-Mammadova, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Rovshan Safarov, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva.