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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Iceland

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



1. The Government of Iceland welcomes the 230 recommendations received during the third Universal Periodic Review of Iceland on 25 January 2022.

2. The Government's overall approach when considering the recommendations received is to accept recommendations where the Government can foresee measures before the next review, or where measures have already been or are being implemented.

3. After careful consideration, the Government is pleased to provide the responses below with further information in the table annexed. The Government of Iceland accepts 218 recommendations, partially accepts 2 recommendations and notes 10 recommendations as follows:

(a) 121.2, 121.5, 121.7, 121.8, 121.9, 121.10, 121.11, 121.18, 121.19, 121.20, 121.22, 121.23, 121.27, 121.29, 121.30, 121.31, 121.32, 121.33, 121.35, 121.38, 121.46, 121.51, 121.52, 121.53, 121.54, 121.55, 121.92, 121.93, 121.94, 121.95, 121.96, 121.97, 121.98, 121.99, 121.100, 121.101, 121.102, 121.103, 121.104, 121.105, 121.106, 121.109, 121.110, 121.111, 121.114, 121.115, 121.116, 121.117, 121.118, 121.119, 121.120, 121.121, 121.123, 121.125, 121.126, 121.127, 121.128, 121.129, 121.131, 121.133, 121.134, 121.135, 121.136, 121.137, 121.139, 121.140, 121.141, 121.142, 121.143, 121.144, 121.145, 121.146, 121.147, 121.148, 121.149, 121.150, 121.151, 121.152, 121.153, 121.154, 121.155, 121.156, 121.158, 121.159, 121.160, 121.161, 121.164, 121.166, 121.167, 121.168, 121.170, 121.171, 121.172, 121.173, 121.174, 121.175, 121.176, 121.177, 121.178, 121.179, 121.180, 121.181, 121.182, 121.183, 121.184, 121.185, 121.186, 121.188, 121.189, 121.190, 121.191, 121.193, 121.194, 121.195, 121.196, 121.197, 121.198, 121.199, 121.200, 121.201, 121.202, 121.203, 121.204, 121.205, 121.206, 121.207, 121.208, 121.209, 121.210, 121.211, 121.212, 121.213, 121.214, 121.215, 121.216, 121.217, 121.221, 121.222, 121.223, 121.224, 121.226, 121.227, 121.228, 121.229.

Accepted.

(b) 121.3, 121.6, 121.26, 121.28, 121.36, 121.37, 121.39, 121.40, 121.41, 121.42, 121.43, 121.44, 121.47, 121.50, 121.107, 121.130, 121.132, 121.169, 121.230.

Accepted. See the annex for further information.

121.1

Accepted/Noted. The Government accepts the first part of the recommendation regarding the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. The second part of the recommendation regarding the ILO Conventions is noted. The revision of the labour law is planned and needs to be conducted before a decision is made on the ratification of the Convention.

121.4

Accepted/Noted. The first part of the recommendation concerning the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is accepted. The second part of the recommendation regarding the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families is noted. The revision of the labour law is planned and needs to be conducted before a decision is made on the ratification of the Convention.

121.12, 121.13, 121.14, 121.15, 121.16

Noted. The revision of the labour law is planned and needs to be conducted before a decision is made on the ratification of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

121.17

Noted. The Government takes its obligations under international human rights law most seriously and will consider the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

121.21

Accepted. To further strengthen the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Government of Iceland has decided to incorporate it directly into Icelandic legislation. In parallel with the incorporation of the Convention into Icelandic legislation, a preparation of the Optional Protocol's ratification is planned.

121.24

Noted. Iceland has withdrawn all reservations to the Covenant, except the reservation to Article 20, paragraph 1. The reasoning behind Iceland's reservation to Article 20, paragraph 1, still applies, on the ground that prohibition against propaganda for war could limit the freedom of expression.

121.25

Noted.

121.34

Accepted. A comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation bill has been presented to Parliament covering equal treatment in all areas of society irrespective of race, ethnicity, religion, life stance, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics.

121.45

Accepted. The Government is committed to human rights for LGBTIQ+ persons and their protection is already included in hate crime laws.

121.48

Accepted. Since the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was ratified in 2016, various legislative amendments have been made to implement the Convention into Icelandic legislation. To further strengthen the status of the Convention, the Government has decided to incorporate the Convention directly into Icelandic legislation.

121.49

Accepted. The Government puts emphasis on regular and open consultations with multiple stakeholders when developing laws and policies, including with civil society and religious groups. To further strengthen that consultation process, legislative intents, draft bills and draft policies are also published on the Government's Consultation Portal, where everyone, including stakeholders, can make comments and proposals.

121.56, 121.57, 121.58, 121.59, 121.60, 121.61, 121.62, 121.63, 121.64, 121.65, 121.66, 121.67, 121.68, 121.69, 121.70, 121.71, 121.72, 121.73, 121.74, 121.75, 121.76, 121.77, 121.78, 121.79, 121.80, 121.81, 121.82, 121.83, 121.84, 121.85, 121.86, 121.87, 121.88, 121.89, 121.91

Accepted. The Government has decided to establish a strong, independent and effective National Human Rights Institution that will be fully compliant with the Paris Principles. The establishment of a human rights institution is included in the coalition treaty of the current Government.

121.90

Accepted. The Steering Committee on Human Rights is the formal human rights consultation and cooperation platform for all Government Ministries and therefore does not comply with the Paris Principles. However, the Government has decided to establish a National Human Rights Institution that is fully compliant with the Paris Principles.

121.108

Accepted. The Directorate of Equality monitors the implementation of the current anti-discrimination legislation and assumed violations can be brought before the Equality Complaints Committee.

121.112, 121.113

Accepted. Iceland considers it important to have a comprehensive legislation for protection against discrimination and in that regard, discrimination is prohibited in a number of national legislations. A strategy on immigration matters will be developed within the next years, as well as an action plan.

121.122

Accepted. Iceland supports the objective that developed nations should contribute 0.7% of their GNI to official development assistance. Iceland has increased its contributions, in line with Parliamentary Resolution on Iceland's policy for international development cooperation for 2019-2023 and will meet the target of 0.35% GNI as ODA in 2022. A new Parliamentary Resolution on Iceland's policy for international development cooperation will be adopted next year.

121.124

Noted. The sanctions adopted by the UN and EU, that Iceland has implemented, are fully compliant with obligations under international law, including human rights.

121.138

Accepted. Combating human trafficking is a top priority for Iceland. In 2019, the Government's policies were outlined in a National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Other Forms of Exploitation which since has been the foundation of a strengthened approach to the prevention, protection, and prosecution of human trafficking, as well as enhanced partnership and consultations across the administration and with the police.

121.157

Accepted. Sexual harassment and exploitation in the workplace is prohibited according to Icelandic law. It is obligatory for employers to have an active plan to respond and address sexual harassment and exploitation in the workplace.

121.162

Noted. The Government considers the current system of issuing work permits only valid for employment with a specific employer better suited to ensure that foreign workers are not treated unfairly in the domestic labour market, since the employer named in the permit is obliged to ensure compliance with current laws and collective agreements. A new temporary work permit may be granted, as appropriate, due to a specific job done by a foreign national for an employer other than the one to which the previous permit applied.

121.163

Accepted. The Government puts an emphasis on respecting diversity and protecting and promoting different kinds of families, including same-sex couples, LGBTQI+ parents and single parent families.

121.165

Accepted. The Government intends to formulate a comprehensive immigration policy in the coming years, aimed at ensuring that persons who settle in Iceland have the opportunity to integrate and actively participate in society and in the labour market.

121.187

Accepted. In Iceland, compulsory education is 10 years, for children from the age of 6 to 16. In addition, children aged 16 to 18 have a right to education and are entitled to enrol at an upper secondary school.

121.192

Accepted. The Government is firmly committed to fighting gender-based and sexual violence. Significant efforts have been made to ensure faster and higher quality investigations and prosecutions in gender-based and sexual violence cases. This includes enhanced financing and additional training for police and prosecutors.

121.218, 121.219, 121.220

Accepted. The Government is committed to combating discrimination against persons with disabilities. There are no indications that people with Down syndrome are more likely to face discrimination compared to other groups of persons with disabilities.

121.225

Accepted. The Government intends to formulate a comprehensive immigration policy in the coming years, aimed at ensuring that persons who settle in Iceland have the opportunity to integrate and actively participate in society and in the labour market.
