



General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 December 2016
English
Original: English/French

Human Rights Council

Thirty-fourth session

27 February-24 March 2017

Agenda item 6

Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*


Togo

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

GE.16-23163 (E) 180117 190117



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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 twenty-sixth session from 31 October to 11 November 2016. The review of Togo was held at the 1st meeting, on 31 October 2016. The delegation of Togo was headed by the Minister of Justice and Relations with the Institutions of the Republic, Kokouvi Agbetome. At its 10th meeting, held on 4 November 2016, the Working Group adopted the report on Togo.

2. On 12 January 2016, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Togo: Ethiopia, Panama and Switzerland.

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 Togo:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/26/TGO/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/26/TGO/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/26/TGO/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Germany, Mexico, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zambia was transmitted to Togo through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation stated that, since the first cycle of the universal periodic review in 2011, Togo had made every effort to implement the recommendations it had accepted. In 2014, it had submitted a midterm report on the progress made. The reports submitted for the review had been prepared using an inclusive and participatory process.

6. Of the 133 recommendations made at its first review in 2011, Togo had accepted 122 and noted 11. While some progress had been made, further efforts were required in several areas despite the resolve displayed and the resources deployed.

7. In the political and institutional arenas, democracy was functioning; the opposition played an important role in the political, economic and social life of Togo and the country was run in a participatory manner.

8. Progress had been made in the areas of economics and finance as a result of the positive impact of government support for the agricultural sector, the ongoing efforts to strengthen the economic infrastructure and the performance of the financial authorities, which had further consolidated the improvements in the macroeconomic framework.

9. In the area of legislation, a number of laws had been passed relating to the Criminal Code, the Individuals and Family Code, the Code of Military Justice, the status of judges, audiovisual media and communications, legal aid and the special regulations for the police.

10. In terms of accession to instruments and cooperation with regional and international mechanisms, Togo had concluded its ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, on 14 September 2016.
11. During the period under review, it had also become a party to the Convention against Discrimination in Education (2012) and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (2014).
12. In 2012 and 2013, it had submitted a number of initial and periodic reports to six treaty bodies.
13. Togo had received visits from the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2014, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders in 2013 (second visit) and the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 2014.
14. It had also received a visit from the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in 2013 and submitted its initial report on the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance in 2016.
15. Furthermore, Togo had been elected to the Human Rights Council for 2016-2018 and would use that mandate to strengthen its human rights commitments.
16. In connection with the fight against torture, the modifications to the new 2015 Criminal Code included the removal of the statute of limitations for acts of torture and the alignment of the definition of torture with the provisions of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Following its ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, Togo had mandated the National Human Rights Commission to act as the national mechanism for the prevention of torture. The organic law had recently been reviewed to bring the Commission into line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).
17. Capacity-strengthening workshops on combating torture had been organized for criminal investigators and prison and rehabilitation officers with support from the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
18. Progress achieved in the area of governance and promotion of the rule of law included the reform of public finances and the fight against corruption. Togo had ratified a number of regional and international instruments in that connection and several new institutions had helped to reduce corruption. As a result, between 2011 and 2015, Togo had risen 36 places in the country rankings of the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index. The establishment of the High Authority to Combat Corruption should enhance efforts in that area.
19. In the justice sector, the modernization programme for 2005-2012 had enabled the construction, renovation and fitting out of a number of courts of appeal and other courts, the introduction of a computerized system for issuing certificates of nationality, the establishment of the Judicial Careers Training Centre, the computerization of the commercial section of the court of appeal and the Lomé court of first instance, the provision of equipment for the forensic police, the dissemination of legal guides for citizens and detainees and the construction of a new civilian prison which met international standards.
20. In October 2015, Togo and the European Union had signed an agreement to fund a new programme to support the justice sector.

21. The delegation stressed that fighting poverty was one of the Government's priorities and pointed to the Accelerated Growth and Employment Creation Strategy for 2013-2017, the National Fund for Inclusive Finance, the Emergency Programme for Community Development, dedicated programmes ensuring access to financial services for the poor, farmers and young people and the national Cash Transfer Programme. These policies and programmes had resulted in a decline in poverty in Togo, which had been chosen as a pilot country for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

22. Major reforms had also been instituted in the agricultural sector, where 15,000 jobs had been generated through the National Agricultural Investment and Food Security Programme. The progress made in combating hunger and malnutrition had been recognized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 2013 and 2015. Nevertheless, significant challenges remained.

23. The proportion of the population with access to drinking water had risen from 42 per cent in 2012 to 50 per cent in 2015, while the electrification rate had increased from 26.57 per cent in 2013 to 28.3 per cent in 2014. In 2014, electricity had been brought to more than 80 communities as part of the rural electrification programme.

24. With regard to access to health care, the delegation highlighted the subsidies that covered 90 per cent of the cost of caesarian sections, the campaigns to treat obstetric fistula, the promotion of free malaria treatment, the creation of an observatory to combat discrimination against and stigmatization of persons living with HIV/AIDS and the provision of seven free vaccinations for women and children.

25. Other measures taken in this regard included the creation of a national laboratory for the quality control of medicines, the establishment of a drug regulatory authority, the recruitment of 1,107 health-care professionals, the award of 117 training grants and the provision of care for more than 80 per cent of pregnancies. The number of births attended by qualified personnel had increased from 60 per cent in 2010 to 73 per cent in 2014.

26. Regarding the right to work, the national employment policy had enabled more than 100,000 young people to benefit from support for training, employment, financing and entrepreneurship. This had led to a reduction in the youth unemployment rate from 8.1 per cent to 3.4 per cent between 2011 and 2015.

27. In the area of the right to education, Togo had updated its sectoral plan for 2014-2025. Efforts made to improve access to and universal completion of primary education included the construction of 999 classrooms equipped with latrines and wells in 2014 and the conversion of 85 community-run schools into public schools. A total of 207 teachers and trainers had been recruited.

28. With regard to higher education, the delegation made reference to the computerization of the Directorate of the National Library and Archives and the introduction of regulations governing private higher education.

29. The new Criminal Code and the revised Individuals and Family Code contained provisions aimed at eliminating discrimination against women. In addition, efforts had been made to reduce gender inequality, including through the encouragement of women's participation in public affairs, the implementation of the women's centres programme and the establishment of a number of counselling centres for gender-based violence throughout the country.

30. The representation of women in parliament had risen from 11.11 per cent in 2007 to 18.68 per cent in 2016. In contrast, the percentage of women in government had dropped slightly.

31. Various programmes to combat violence against and abuse of children had been launched with technical and financial support from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other partners. In order to strengthen the monitoring of these programmes, a decree on the National Committee on the Rights of the Child had been issued.
32. With regard to persons with disabilities, a national protection strategy and a corresponding operational action plan had been developed. To promote inclusive education, teachers had received specialized training in order to improve the management and integration of children with disabilities. Togo had also been supported by Handicap International and the Togolese Federation of Associations of Persons with Disabilities.
33. The new law on the status of refugees in Togo, adopted in 2016, had brought the national asylum procedure into line with international standards. In addition, refugees were able to work in Togo.
34. Responding to the questions received, the delegation stated that the use of force by the defence and security forces was regulated by the Constitution, the Act of 16 May 2011 and the decree of 6 March 2013. The maintenance and restoration of law and order were governed by the proportional use of force and subject to a request from the competent authority. An independent commission of inquiry was investigating serious incidents involving the use of force and had facilitated the initiation of legal proceedings. In addition, a range of disciplinary and criminal sanctions were available.
35. Furthermore, the implementation of the new Code of Military Justice of April 2016 meant that no act of wrongdoing would go unpunished.
36. Togo was engaged in legal proceedings and activities to raise public awareness of the obligation to obey the law. Community policing policies were also planned in order to raise awareness of the risks and harmful consequences of mob justice.
37. In order to reduce prison overcrowding, pretrial detention would now be used only as an emergency measure and a model prison had been opened in Kpalimé. Additional resources were needed to address the shortcomings in terms of food and health care.
38. Progress had been made on birth registration. The birth registration rate had doubled to 85 per cent in 15 prefectures as a result of the operational action plan, and a reliable system for registration and the issuance of certificates was planned.
39. Freedom of expression was guaranteed by the Constitution and the Press and Communications Code. The Act on Freedom of Access to Public Information and Documentation, adopted in March 2016, protected access to public information.
40. Regarding the right to social security, efforts had been focused on the principle of universal coverage by extending the existing coverage for civil servants to workers in the private sector. With regard to the issue of female genital mutilation, the incidence had dropped from 12 per cent in 1996 to 2 per cent in 2012.
41. The new Criminal Code and the Individuals and Family Code prohibited violence against women, and victims of violence received assistance at counselling centres and women's centres.
42. Togo was combating teenage marriage, teenage pregnancy and violence against girls in schools through awareness-raising, advocacy and efforts to keep them in school throughout higher education.
43. To combat child trafficking, Togo had boosted family finances by providing subsidies and establishing school canteens in poor areas. Between 2012 and 2015, 218 of the 553 child trafficking complaints filed had resulted in the prosecution of perpetrators, and cooperation agreements in this connection would be signed with Benin, Gabon and

Nigeria. Following a decision taken in October 2016 by the Council of Ministers, appointments would be made to the National Committee on the Rights of the Child.

44. Regarding the right to education, the imbalance in school enrolment between girls and boys and the dropout and repetition rates had all decreased. Programmes to support girls in technical education had led to scholarships being awarded to female students in scientific and technical subjects. The cooperation of the traditional customary authorities had enabled girls to be removed from convents and enrolled in school.

45. Between 2011 and 2015, the poverty rate fell from 58 per cent to 51 per cent, partly as a result of the national programme for sustainable development. Efforts continued to improve access to water, including on farms. In the mining sector, infringements of safety regulations were subject to sanctions and companies were supporting the economic development of mining areas in line with the mining governance programme funded by the World Bank.

46. Despite these advances, challenges remained. However, Togo was still committed to making significant and progressive improvements in the area of human rights and sought assistance from partners in pursuing its priorities, in particular birth registration, health in prisons and the implementation of social programmes for which it needed financial support.

47. The delegation thanked those countries that had contributed to improving human rights in Togo, as well as the international organizations that had supported it throughout the review process, in particular the International Organization of la Francophonie. Lastly, Togo invited its technical and financial partners to continue to support the Government's initiatives in the areas of human rights and the well-being of the population.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

48. During the interactive dialogue, 78 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue can be found in section II of the present report.

49. Burundi congratulated Togo on the elections held in 2015. It welcomed the commitment to improve the human rights situation, by organizing awareness-raising and training sessions on human rights for different State officials, and the measures taken to improve the judicial system.

50. Canada complimented Togo on the abolition of the death penalty and the criminalization of torture. It welcomed the efforts to improve detention conditions by reducing overcrowding in prisons and separating incarcerated men from incarcerated women and children.

51. The Central African Republic noted that youth continued to suffer abuse despite the efforts made to eradicate that practice. It wished full success to Togo and called on the international community to support Togo in the consolidation of democracy and in strengthening the rule of law.

52. Chile noted the ratification of several international human rights instruments and the efforts made to strengthen the normative framework and to cooperate with international human rights mechanisms.

53. China commended Togo for its efforts to strengthen infrastructure and enhance the level of public services in the health, education and employment sectors. It noted the adoption of the Criminal Code and the Individuals and Family Code and the implementation of a strategy to combat sexual violence. It hoped that the international community would provide Togo with the necessary technical assistance.

54. The Congo noted the efforts to harmonize legislation with international instruments. It encouraged Togo to strengthen its human rights institutions and its cooperation with the human rights mechanisms.
55. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the Law on the National Human Rights Commission, the new Criminal Code and the adoption of strategies aimed at accelerating growth and promoting employment. It was concerned about the underrepresentation of women in decision-making and the protection of civil society actors.
56. Cuba welcomed the efforts to harmonize national legislation with ratified international human rights instruments, the adoption of national and sectoral human rights policies and programmes and the ratification of international treaties. It welcomed the Law on the National Human Rights Commission and the strategy on accelerated growth and employment promotion.
57. Djibouti welcomed the ratification of international human rights treaties and the Law on the National Human Rights Commission. It encouraged Togo to combat sexual violence, early marriage, ill-treatment of girls and female genital mutilation, and to eliminate corruption in administration and in the judicial system.
58. Egypt noted the efforts to promote human rights and to implement the recommendations from the first review cycle. It also noted the focus on social development, combating poverty and developing the education sector. Egypt welcomed the submission of reports to treaty bodies.
59. Ethiopia commended Togo for identifying priority areas in the promotion and protection of human rights. It noted the efforts to enhance the normative and institutional framework, as well as the Accelerated Growth and Employment Creation Strategy for 2013-2017.
60. Mexico noted the adoption of the law amending the definition of torture to bring it into line with the Convention against Torture. It was concerned about discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Mexico asked about the progress and challenges in the implementation of the birth registration plan for 2013-2017.
61. Gabon noted the adoption of the new Criminal Code, which integrates a gender perspective and prohibits child labour and human trafficking. It also noted the adoption of the Individuals and Family Code, which prohibits customary practices constituting violence and discrimination against women.
62. Georgia noted with satisfaction the enactment of the new Criminal Code and the Individuals and Family Code and the ratification of the Convention against Discrimination in Education and the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons. It encouraged Togo to issue a standing invitation to the special procedure mandate holders.
63. Germany noted progress made since the 2011 universal periodic review of Togo, in particular the criminalization of torture.
64. Ghana noted with satisfaction the measures taken to ensure equal access by men and women to education and inclusive education for persons with disabilities.
65. Switzerland welcomed the new Criminal Code while expressing concern about restrictions on the right to freedom of expression and on the work of journalists and human rights defenders, as well as precarious detention conditions and overcrowding in prisons. It noted allegations of persistent malnutrition, unhealthiness and ill-treatment in detention centres.
66. Guatemala noted the efforts to strengthen the judiciary. However, it was concerned about the lack of independence of the judiciary, access to justice and impunity.

67. Indonesia welcomed the adoption of the Criminal Code, training on torture prevention for police officers and the processing of complaints and investigations by the National Human Rights Commission. It noted the efforts to harmonize national legislation with international instruments and legislative measures for human rights promotion and protection.

68. Iraq welcomed the cooperation with special procedures, the development of the implementation action plan regarding the universal periodic review and the ratification of the Convention against Discrimination in Education and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

69. Israel commended Togo for its good cooperation with international and regional human rights mechanisms, proactive policies to prevent torture and the emphasis on political participation.

70. Italy appreciated the intensified efforts to combat violence against women and girls and enhance child protection since the first review cycle.

71. Kenya commended Togo for the steps taken to implement recommendations from the first review cycle despite the challenges and without support from the international community.

72. Lebanon took positive note of the commitment to uphold human rights principles, which was reflected in the national legal framework, the reception of special procedure mandate holders and the election of Togo as a member of the Human Rights Council from 2016 to 2018.

73. Libya welcomed the efforts to implement accepted recommendations from the first review cycle and to strengthen the education system. It urged Togo to ensure that primary education was accessible to all.

74. Liechtenstein welcomed the efforts to eliminate discrimination against women and the prohibition of customary practices constituting violence or discrimination against women through the amendment of the Individuals and Family Code. It encouraged Togo to implement the Code.

75. Madagascar welcomed the adherence to the Convention against Discrimination in Education and the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons. Madagascar welcomed the efforts to strengthen the institutional and legislative framework and the progress made regarding the rights to education and health.

76. Maldives welcomed the efforts to eliminate discrimination against women, the campaign against child marriage, awareness-raising about early and forced marriage and early pregnancy. It commended the establishment of the framework for consultations and dialogue with human rights actors and stakeholders.

77. Mauritania welcomed the engagement in the field of human rights and the efforts to improve the living conditions of the population, including through the policy to eradicate poverty and ensure access to education and health care. It noted the legislative and institutional measures to reinforce the human rights framework, including the strengthening of the National Human Rights Commission.

78. France welcomed the measures taken since the first review cycle, particularly the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the establishment of the national mechanism to prevent torture.

79. Mongolia noted the steps taken to eliminate discrimination against women, to punish those responsible for gender-based violence and trafficking in women and to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and of minorities. It commended Togo for its cooperation with UNICEF to combat violence against and the sexual exploitation of children.

80. Montenegro commended Togo for its abolition of the death penalty and the appointment of cantonal focal points to support victims of domestic violence. It asked about measures to improve the legal framework on human trafficking, investigate cases of trafficking and prosecute traffickers.

81. Morocco welcomed the reforms initiated regarding the rights to health, housing, work and education. It commended Togo for its efforts in reforming and modernizing the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code and in strengthening the guarantees on access to justice.

82. Mozambique welcomed the ratification of the Convention against Discrimination in Education, the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Arms Trade Treaty. It welcomed the visits by the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and special procedure mandate holders.

83. Namibia welcomed the new Criminal Code and the Individuals and Family Code, which contains provisions aimed at eliminating discrimination against women. It encouraged Togo to continue its efforts to reform the judicial system and to ensure the independence of the judiciary.

84. The Netherlands noted the restrictions on the right to peaceful assembly, especially for women and persons advocating for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and the excessive use of force on demonstrators. It expressed concern about the draft law on association, which might result in restrictions on the right to peaceful assembly and association, and about the prevailing impunity.

85. The Niger welcomed the laws on the National Human Rights Commission and the right to access to information and public documents, the good cooperation with treaty bodies and special procedure mandate holders, and the government initiatives such as the creation of agricultural development zones.

86. Nigeria praised the initiatives taken to reduce poverty. It noted the achievements made to improve and strengthen the health-care and education systems and welcomed the efforts to combat torture and ill-treatment through training courses for criminal investigators and prison officials.

87. Pakistan was encouraged by the efforts made to implement the majority of the recommendations from the first review cycle and noted the initiatives in that regard. It commended Togo for its efforts to consolidate democracy and strengthen the rule of law.

88. The Philippines was encouraged by the steps taken to strengthen the domestic framework. However, it noted with concern that the Nationality Code does not allow women to transfer their nationality to a foreign spouse, as men are able to do. It was also concerned about the underrepresentation of women in decision-making bodies.

89. Portugal commended the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It welcomed the adoption of the new Criminal Code, the compliance of the definition of torture with that contained in the Convention against Torture and the prohibition of female genital mutilation. Portugal noted the lack of access to primary education by one third of the children in the country.

90. The Republic of Korea appreciated the efforts to revise laws on areas including regarding legal assistance, family, education and access to information. It noted that those efforts were in follow-up to the previous review.
91. The Russian Federation commended Togo for its efforts to improve its legal framework and the independence and effectiveness of the judiciary. It noted with concern that the practice of female genital mutilation had not stopped despite its criminalization.
92. Rwanda noted the progress relating to social and economic rights and the right to justice. It commended Togo for its continued efforts to promote gender equality and combat sexual and gender-based violence and its implementation of policies aimed at reducing disparities between men and women.
93. Senegal welcomed the legislative reforms reinforcing the human rights framework, particularly the laws relating to the composition, organization and functioning of the National Human Rights Commission and access to information and public documentation. Senegal noted the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the training for penitentiary staff.
94. Serbia commended Togo for its efforts to combat discrimination, the ratification of the Convention against Discrimination in Education and the adoption of the Criminal Code. It encouraged the Government to continue its efforts towards achieving comprehensive criminal liability for the use of torture.
95. Sierra Leone welcomed the adoption of the Law on Legal Aid, the new Criminal Code and the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. It encouraged Togo to ensure closer collaboration with the national human rights institution and provide it with additional resources, and ensure gender equality and equal participation of women in decision-making processes.
96. Slovenia commended Togo for its ratification of several human rights treaties. It was concerned that birth registration was still not universal, that consensual same-sex sexual conduct was criminalized and that violence against women remained a problem.
97. South Africa noted the efforts of Togo to strengthen the education system and the adoption of the law on freedom of access to information.
98. South Sudan noted the adoption of laws on human rights issues and the ratification of several human rights treaties. It encouraged Togo to share its experience and good practice in ensuring access to education for girls.
99. Spain welcomed the new Criminal Code that criminalizes female genital mutilation, while expressing concern that Togo continued to criminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex. It also welcomed the fact that the new Criminal Code is conducive to harmonizing national legislation with the Convention against Torture.
100. The Sudan welcomed the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention against Discrimination in Education and cooperation with special procedures.
101. Greece noted the progress in various areas, including the adoption of the Criminal Code and the Individuals and Family Code, the strengthening of the education system and the implementation of the National Strategy to Combat Gender-based Violence.
102. Tajikistan noted the socioeconomic development policy and the national programme to modernize the judicial system.
103. Timor-Leste welcomed the fact that female genital mutilation had been criminalized and the new law on freedom of peaceful assembly. However, it remained concerned at the high rate of sexual harassment and rape of girls in schools.

104. Tunisia appreciated the adoption of the new Criminal Code, the Law on Legal Aid, the Law on Freedom of Assembly and Association, and the Individuals and Family Code. It welcomed the efforts to combat torture and ill-treatment and to improve prison conditions and the situation of persons with disabilities.

105. Turkey welcomed the adoption of the Law on the National Human Rights Commission and the action plans promoting birth registration.

106. Uganda noted the efforts to ratify several human rights instruments, including the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and to harmonize its legislation with its international human rights obligations.

107. Ukraine noted with satisfaction the Government's efforts to implement the Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to modernize the judicial system and to implement regulations regarding conditions of arrest, custody and detention.

108. The United Arab Emirates welcomed the progress made in the area of education, particularly the policy to make primary education free and compulsory. It appreciated that education was being provided to all social groups, including children with special needs.

109. The United Kingdom welcomed the decision to accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It urged Togo to adopt a law and establish a commission to combat human trafficking and further reforms to support political pluralism. It called for more measures to reduce prison overcrowding.

110. The United Republic of Tanzania noted the efforts to ratify numerous international treaties. It commended Togo for its commitment to improve respect for the rule of law and for taking initiatives aimed at revitalizing the economy, combating poverty and improving the well-being of its citizens.

111. The United States of America commended Togo for, among other things, holding a peaceful and democratic presidential election in 2015 and the decision to plan for local elections. It remained concerned about the increase in pretrial detentions and poor prison conditions. It noted the lack of reliable institutions to investigate corruption.

112. Uruguay welcomed the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. It encouraged Togo to ensure the independence of the National Human Rights Commission and to provide it with the necessary resources.

113. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted that Togo had ratified international instruments and submitted reports to the treaty bodies, that anti-retroviral drugs to combat HIV/AIDS were free, primary education was free, grants were awarded to secondary school students and to girls in remote areas and malnutrition had been reduced with support provided to poor children.

114. Viet Nam commended Togo for the positive developments in the protection and promotion of human rights.

115. Zambia commended Togo for developing the National Strategy to Combat Gender-based Violence. It noted the prevailing social attitudes conducive to the stigmatization of children with disabilities and the cases of juveniles kept with adults in places of detention and of children without birth certificates.

116. Zimbabwe noted the adoption of national policies and programmes, including the National Health Sector Development Plan and the ratification of several human rights

treaties, including the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

117. Albania noted the adoption of the Law on Legal Aid and the Criminal Code and the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. It encouraged the Government to further strengthen its national efforts and human rights mechanisms.

118. Algeria commended Togo for the adoption of the Law on Legal Aid and the review of the Individuals and Family Code. It welcomed the efforts to combat torture and ill-treatment through training to judicial staff, police officers and penitentiary staff. Algeria also welcomed the workshop on access by women to land.

119. Angola noted the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the effective cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and the harmonization of national legislation with international standards.

120. Argentina welcomed the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the legislative and institutional initiatives taken to protect and improve the situation of women and girls.

121. Armenia welcomed the efforts to strengthen the education system, including the increased number of teachers. It encouraged the enrolment of girls in primary education.

122. Australia welcomed the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It expressed concern about the lack of parliamentary oversight of the National Human Rights Commission, restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly and the Criminal Code provisions that might restrict freedom of the press and civil society.

123. Azerbaijan acknowledged the efforts to strengthen the legal and institutional framework for human rights promotion and protection. It welcomed the cooperation with special procedures.

124. Bangladesh welcomed the harmonization of national legislation with ratified international treaties, the adoption of policies and national and sectoral programmes, the adoption of the Accelerated Growth and Employment Creation Strategy and the progress in gross domestic product growth, increased food production, access to safe drinking water and the substantially decreased number of undernourished people.

125. Belgium welcomed the criminalization of torture while expressing concerns about impunity in relation to the excessive use of force by armed forces, the lack of a law on violence against women and the criminalization of sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex.

126. Botswana welcomed the enactment of various laws and noted the progress made in implementing the recommendations from the previous review. It noted some challenges, including sexual abuse of girls in schools, child marriage, lack of separation of minors and adults in detention facilities and the high level of human trafficking.

127. Brazil appreciated the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and recognized the constructive participation of Togo in international human rights forums and its criminalization of torture.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

128. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Togo and enjoy the support of Togo:

128.1 Continue its efforts to ratify international human rights treaties (Côte d'Ivoire);

128.2 Accede to those international legal instruments to which Togo is not yet a party, in particular the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Gabon);

128.3 Speed up the process of ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Georgia); Expedite action on the ratification process of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Ghana); Accelerate its ratification process of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Mongolia);

128.4 Consider signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Guatemala);

128.5 Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Italy);

128.6 Accept, ratify or accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Uruguay);

128.7 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Madagascar) (Djibouti) (Portugal) (Albania);

128.8 Continue to pursue gender equality by adopting the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Australia);

128.9 Expedite action on the ratification process of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ghana); Complete the process of ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Turkey);

128.10 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Algeria) (Egypt) (Sierra Leone);

128.11 Ratify promptly the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Guatemala);

128.12 Consider the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia); Consider ratifying the International Convention on the

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines);

128.13 Envisage the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families which was signed by Togo in 2001 (Senegal);

128.14 Consider ratifying the International Labour Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Philippines);

128.15 Continue its accession to the core international human rights instruments (Azerbaijan);

128.16 Consider signing the core human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party (United Republic of Tanzania);

128.17 Amend the Individuals and Family Code in which consideration is given to prevention and support of victims of gender-based and sexual violence (Liechtenstein);

128.18 Ensure that domestic legislation is in line with international human rights standards (Philippines);

128.19 Accelerate the process to establish a national committee on the rights of children provided for in the Children's Code (Gabon);

128.20 Speed up the establishment of the national commission to fight against trafficking in persons and the implementation process of the action plan of the national policy on gender equity and equality (Madagascar);

128.21 Institute a national action plan on the prevention of torture and allocate sufficient resources for its implementation (Serbia);

128.22 Continue to develop the normative and institutional framework at the national level by integrating all instruments and treaties ratified by Togo in the legislative system of the country (Iraq);

128.23 Strengthen training and awareness-raising of the main social actors on international human rights standards (Côte d'Ivoire);

128.24 Continue efforts to raise awareness and to train those working in the field of human rights (Egypt);

128.25 Establish a functional registry system reaching the whole population, by, inter alia, extending the time for free birth registration and offering birth certificate establishment procedures for the unregistered (Germany);

128.26 Ensure universal birth registration and take the necessary steps to achieve universal primary education and combat illiteracy (Slovenia);

128.27 Take the necessary measures to ensure that birth registration is obligatory and free for all children (Turkey);

128.28 Put in place concrete measures to facilitate birth registration by extending the free registration deadline and through multiplication of awareness-raising activities thereon (Turkey);

128.29 Adopt and implement the national policies on child protection and on the child welfare system (Slovenia);

- 128.30 Continue its efforts to launch and implement a national human rights action plan in order to improve promotion and protection of human rights (Indonesia);
- 128.31 Continue implementing the human rights action plan (Sudan);
- 128.32 Continue efforts to mainstream human rights into general policies (Sudan);
- 128.33 Develop and promote national policies in the field of child rights protection, in particular for vulnerable groups of the population (Tajikistan);
- 128.34 With the support from the international community, make efforts to integrate a human rights approach in public policies and establish a credible data collection centre (Uganda);
- 128.35 Incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals in development policies and programmes (Zimbabwe);
- 128.36 Include human rights education in curricula in educational institutions (Armenia);
- 128.37 Submit overdue reports to the human rights treaty bodies (Ghana); Submit overdue reports to the relevant treaty bodies (Sierra Leone);
- 128.38 Step up efforts towards gender equality (Philippines);
- 128.39 Make further efforts to protect and integrate into society disadvantaged women, such as rural women, women with disabilities and women in detention, by adopting targeted policies for them, in particular in the areas of education, employment, health care and social security (Republic of Korea);
- 128.40 Adopt further measures to ensure gender equality in the society, including through implementing and updating, when necessary, the National Strategy to Combat Gender-based Violence (Viet Nam);
- 128.41 Continue the positive measures in favour of women by promoting their access to justice and education (Angola);
- 128.42 Continue adopting measures to facilitate hiring women in labour sectors that have traditionally been exclusively for men, including the armed forces (Chile);
- 128.43 Continue its efforts aimed at addressing the underrepresentation of women in decision-making bodies, including through considering the adoption of a law on gender equality (Rwanda);
- 128.44 Continue its work on the elimination of discrimination against women (Tajikistan);
- 128.45 Continue efforts aiming at promoting the role of women in decision-making and achieving equality of opportunities (Tunisia);
- 128.46 Multiply the activities undertaken to increase the participation of women in political life and in decision-making (Turkey);
- 128.47 Strengthen the national gender equity and equality policy (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 128.48 Intensify its fight against violence against women and girls and continue the fight against stereotypes (Cuba);

- 128.49 Promote the national policy aimed at achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women (Egypt);
- 128.50 Strengthen its efforts to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women, children and other vulnerable groups through the adoption of comprehensive legislation and awareness-raising campaigns (Italy);
- 128.51 Continue to intensify efforts to achieve equality and non-discrimination in the framework of equality and equity between men and women (Iraq);
- 128.52 Take legislative and statutory measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, persons with disabilities and children affected by HIV/AIDS (Madagascar);
- 128.53 Take measures to increase the participation of women in governance and decision-making bodies (Maldives);
- 128.54 Continue efforts to combat violence against women while promoting gender equality, including carrying out awareness-raising programmes to raise the consciousness of public opinion (France);
- 128.55 Implement formal and effective prevention and protection mechanisms for women victims of violence and female genital mutilation (Spain);
- 128.56 Prohibit harmful practices, including by adopting additional measures to fight against all forms of violence against women and girls (Slovenia);
- 128.57 Continue to implement the National Strategy for Gender-based Violence (Pakistan);
- 128.58 Continue efforts to combat human trafficking, in particular exploitation of children and women, by stepping up the efforts to combat impunity of traffickers and regional cooperation (France);
- 128.59 Adopt effective prevention and education measures to end all cases of child marriage and female genital mutilation (Liechtenstein);
- 128.60 Prosecute all cases of child marriage and female genital mutilation and punish the perpetrators according to the law (Liechtenstein);
- 128.61 Adopt at the earliest a decree establishing a national commission to fight against trafficking in persons (Central African Republic);
- 128.62 Step up efforts to combat violence against women and girls, including by promoting literacy among these groups (Zimbabwe);
- 128.63 Enhance its efforts aimed at improving the situation of the rights of the child, in particular efforts to eliminate early and forced marriage and child trafficking (Rwanda);
- 128.64 Strengthen actions aimed at ending child, early and forced marriage (Sierra Leone);
- 128.65 Separate children in conflict with the law from adults in police and detention facilities and place them in a child-sensitive environment (Zambia);

- 128.66 Urgently take legal, statutory and administrative measures against child labour (Central African Republic);
- 128.67 Bring its legal definition of torture into line with the Convention against Torture and Other, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Australia);
- 128.68 Address the arbitrary and excessive use of force by law enforcement agencies, in particular the military, by providing effective human rights-sensitive training and additional resources, and setting up accountability mechanisms (Netherlands);
- 128.69 Align its Penal Code with international norms with a view to integrating judicial guarantees against torture, such as the right to a lawyer in all phases of a criminal procedure, including in police detention (Serbia);
- 128.70 Address the growing problem of pretrial detentions and prison conditions (United States of America);
- 128.71 Facilitate the adoption of the new Code of Criminal Procedure that includes the notification of charges, the right to be assisted by counsel, compulsory medical examination and notification of family members, with a view to strengthening the rights of those in police custody (Republic of Korea);
- 128.72 Continue to take steps to improve conditions in prison settings and make them consistent with international standards (Angola);
- 128.73 Ensure that decent sanitary conditions are provided to detainees (Djibouti);
- 128.74 Improve prison conditions in all detention centres by developing and implementing a strategy to end the current overcrowding in prisons, as accepted in the 2011 review by, inter alia, restricting the use of pretrial detention, developing alternative forms of punishment, as well as ensuring access to sufficient food and drinkable water, adequate sanitary facilities and medical treatment (Germany);
- 128.75 Improve detention conditions in conformity with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (Switzerland);
- 128.76 Take verifiable measures to improve prison conditions (Spain);
- 128.77 Step up efforts for the improvement of the justice as well as the penitentiary system (Greece);
- 128.78 Develop a strategy to reduce prison overcrowding and improve conditions in line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Kenya);
- 128.79 Investigate thoroughly cases of female genital mutilation and bring the perpetrators to justice (Russian Federation);
- 128.80 Thoroughly investigate and prosecute cases of sexual harassment and rape of girls in schools (Sierra Leone);
- 128.81 Intensify the investigation and punishment of cases of discrimination and gender violence (Argentina);

- 128.82 Provide prompt, thorough and impartial investigations into all allegations of excessive use of force by the armed forces and submit to a fair trial anyone suspected of being responsible (Belgium);
- 128.83 Ensure that allegations of arbitrary arrest, detention and torture are investigated promptly and thoroughly with suspected perpetrators brought to justice (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 128.84 Carry out immediate, impartial and exhaustive investigations into all allegations of torture, ill-treatment and other human rights violations, in particular in detention centres, as recommended previously, and prosecute those responsible (Netherlands);
- 128.85 Improve access to justice for women through legal aid and ensure that women human rights defenders can work safely and are not hindered in their activities (Liechtenstein);
- 128.86 Ensure that women victims of violence receive adequate assistance and that perpetrators are brought to justice (Italy);
- 128.87 Adopt measures to guarantee the right to life, liberty and security of person, particularly to prevent the practice of mob justice as well as impunity for those who are guilty, facilitate the activities of human rights organizations as they combat those practices (Chile);
- 128.88 Continue to strengthen the judicial system, in particular the independence of the judiciary, access to justice, access to necessary infrastructure and resources and the fight against impunity (Ghana);
- 128.89 Strengthen the independence of the judiciary and safeguard the rule of law by, inter alia, increasing the budget allocated to the justice system (Germany);
- 128.90 Continue strengthening the judiciary system, in particular the independence of the judiciary, access to justice, and combating impunity (Guatemala);
- 128.91 Take measures to raise the awareness of its citizens with regard to the rights and judicial procedures in order to improve their access to justice (Maldives);
- 128.92 Pursue reforming the judicial system to strengthen its effectiveness, particularly by improving access to justice and detention conditions (France);
- 128.93 Ensure that violations committed by members of the security forces are subject to legal proceedings (France);
- 128.94 Strengthen the means of action of the training centre for judicial professions created in 2010 (Morocco);
- 128.95 Further strengthen efforts to promote good governance (Georgia);
- 128.96 Strengthen the rule of law by depoliticizing the judiciary and law enforcement and strengthening investigations into corruption and human rights violations and abuses (United States of America);
- 128.97 Ensure the right to unrestricted peaceful assembly, avoid arbitrary detention and the excessive use of force during those assemblies (Uruguay);

- 128.98 Ensure the protection of freedom of expression and of assembly in law and in practice, especially with regard to political participation and the safety of journalists (Brazil);
- 128.99 Implement effectively the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and promote sustainable economic and social development in order to create a solid foundation for the development of its human rights cause (China);
- 128.100 Further continue the implementation of the national development plan for generating resources, which is useful to combat poverty (Ethiopia);
- 128.101 Join efforts with international partners in finding innovative solutions for efficient water management to ensure basic subsistence for all (Israel);
- 128.102 Pursue and increase its efforts undertaken in the field of education, water and sanitation (Morocco);
- 128.103 Pay more attention to fighting against extreme poverty (Ukraine);
- 128.104 Pay more attention to social and economic development programmes (Ukraine);
- 128.105 Pay more attention to the right to food and the general living conditions of the population (Ukraine);
- 128.106 Include those affected by the phosphate extraction industry in the negotiations on their settlement and the acquisition of alternative farm lands for them (Kenya);
- 128.107 Ensure the implementation of the relevant laws to protect people and the environment, by requiring phosphate companies to work with the Government and support its efforts aimed at local and regional development, through, inter alia, building schools and dispensaries and providing water and sanitation to those affected (Kenya);
- 128.108 Continue the implementation of measures aimed at eradicating poverty and illiteracy (Lebanon);
- 128.109 Through its own efforts and international cooperation, further lower its maternal and infant mortality rates (China);
- 128.110 Allocate resources to the capacity-building of medical staff with a view to reducing overall morbidity and mortality (Israel);
- 128.111 Pay more attention to combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, communicable and non-communicable diseases and strengthening the pharmaceutical sector (Ukraine);
- 128.112 Improve the health-care system and specifically provide further measures on infrastructure and resources to maternal health, including midwife training, with a focus on health care for mothers and babies through pregnancy and childbirth (Albania);
- 128.113 Elaborate and implement an action plan for human rights education (Cuba);
- 128.114 Continue to strengthen the quality of education by building and equipping school facilities (Ethiopia);
- 128.115 Continue taking the necessary steps to achieve universal primary education (Georgia);

- 128.116 Expedite the development of a national plan for human rights education (Israel);
- 128.117 Seek the support of partners to pursue its efforts in the areas of the right to education and the right to health (Madagascar);
- 128.118 Continue to strengthen access to education through various programmes and initiatives for all children (Pakistan);
- 128.119 Take all necessary measures to ensure universal primary education, combat illiteracy and reduce the drop-out rate in primary schools (Portugal);
- 128.120 Continue taking the necessary measures to ensure universal primary education and to combat illiteracy in the country (Russian Federation);
- 128.121 Strengthen efforts at promoting inclusive education, including through regional initiatives (South Africa);
- 128.122 Continue its efforts in improving human rights in the country, especially education of girls (South Sudan);
- 128.123 Ensure inspections of school facilities and establish clear reporting systems for cases of violence in schools (Timor-Leste);
- 128.124 Continue the integration of human rights courses at all levels of education (United Arab Emirates);
- 128.125 Continue to reinforce its efforts towards attaining quality education at all levels (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 128.126 Continue to consolidate its successful social plans, particularly its very successful education policy (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 128.127 Take further steps to ensure the right to education for all, especially through increasing the literacy rate (Viet Nam);
- 128.128 Give equal access to education, health care and other social services regardless of having birth certificates or not, to all children (Zambia);
- 128.129 Adopt a law aimed at promoting access to education and health services for all children with disabilities (Congo);
- 128.130 Begin the process of drafting legislation to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities (Maldives);
- 128.131 Take measures in order to improve and create additional favourable conditions to facilitate access to education for persons with disabilities (Nigeria);
- 128.132 Continue to make efforts to progressively introduce an inclusive education system for the children with disabilities (Pakistan);
- 128.133 Further improve accessibility of persons with disabilities to infrastructure, training and education (Greece);
- 128.134 Continue its efforts in the area of human rights, particularly in providing elementary education for all, and combat illiteracy (Libya);
- 128.135 Investigate cases of killings related to children born with disabilities and bring to justice those responsible for such crimes (Zambia);

128.136 **Adopt measures to prevent and mitigate the adverse human rights impact of companies operating in Togo (Nigeria).**

129. **The following enjoy the support of Togo, which considers that they are already implemented or in the process of implementation.**

129.1 **Speed up the process of ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Georgia); Speed up the process of ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Mozambique); Continue efforts aimed at ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (South Africa);**

129.2 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Djibouti); Adhere to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Madagascar);**

129.3 **Accept, ratify or accede to African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (Uruguay);**

129.4 **Accede to the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity (Armenia);**

129.5 **Domesticate the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Kenya);**

129.6 **Adopt and implement human trafficking legislation with a special focus on protecting children, in line with Togo's obligations under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

129.7 **Accelerate the functioning of the National Human Rights Commission making it in conformity with the Paris Principles (Senegal);**

129.8 **Adopt measures to guarantee the full independence and impartiality of the National Human Rights Commission, ensure that its members nomination process is transparent and subject to independent oversight and make the Commission's findings publicly available (Kenya);**

129.9 **Adopt the necessary measures to guarantee the full independence and impartiality of the National Human Rights Commission; ensure the transparency of the appointment process of its members and ensure that it has an independent oversight mechanism (Chile);**

129.10 **Review the way National Human Rights Commission members are appointed to ensure its independence (Australia);**

129.11 **Complete the process of creating a coordination body to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Turkey);**

129.12 **Adopt laws guaranteeing compulsory birth registration (Lebanon);**

129.13 **Ensure that birth registration is free and compulsory in practice and guarantee that children without a birth certificate are not deprived of access to education, health care and other social services, in line with the recommendation of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Namibia);**

129.14 **Swiftly implement the provisions in the new Criminal Code, aiming at the elimination of the practice of female genital mutilation (Portugal);**

129.15 **Implement the National Strategy to Combat Gender-based Violence (South Africa);**

129.16 **Reform the Togolese legislation aimed at eliminating discriminatory practices against women in matters of inheritance (Spain);**

129.17 **Ensure the abolition of all forms of early and forced marriage, including through increasing the minimum age of marriage to 18 for girls (Botswana);**

129.18 **Implement rigorously the legislation establishing the minimum age of marriage at 18 years old (Central African Republic);**

129.19 **Promulgate and implement as soon as possible the law amending the definition of torture and ensure that it is used to investigate complaints of torture and ill-treatment (Mexico);**

129.20 **Introduce criminal liability for trafficking in children, in particular with the purpose of adoption and sale of organs of children (Russian Federation);**

129.21 **Further increase the juvenile courts in its territory to make justice more accessible (Niger);**

129.22 **Take steps to protect freedom of expression and opinion, as provided for in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);**

129.23 **Promote the laws on freedom of the press and of expression (Lebanon);**

129.24 **Protect freedom of assembly and association by ensuring that peaceful demonstration can take place free from intimidation and harassment (Canada);**

129.25 **Reform the laws that hamper the exercise of freedom of expression to ensure that they are in line with international human rights norms (Uruguay);**

129.26 **Elaborate economic policies and poverty reduction strategies (Niger).**

130. **The following recommendations will be examined by Togo, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council.**

130.1 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Montenegro) (Portugal);**

130.2 **Adopt the law on human trafficking (Timor-Leste);**

130.3 **Adopt a law on all forms of violence and discrimination against women (Turkey);**

130.4 **Adopt a specific law, based on prevention of violence against women and related assistance, to combat all violence against women (Algeria);**

- 130.5 **Elaborate a law on violence against women, including domestic violence (Belgium);**
- 130.6 **Adopt a comprehensive legislation to address human trafficking (Botswana);**
- 130.7 **Consider issuing a standing invitation to the United Nations human rights special procedures (Rwanda); Consider the issuance of a standing invitation to the special procedure mandate holders (Azerbaijan);**
- 130.8 **Issue a standing invitation to all special procedures (Mexico); Issue standing invitations to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Ghana); Extend a standing invitation to United Nations special procedure mandate holders (Guatemala); Extend a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders (Montenegro);**
- 130.9 **Adopt without delay the draft law establishing quotas for women in elected and administrative positions, in line with the recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Namibia);**
- 130.10 **Solidify the democratic process by organizing a popular referendum on presidential term limits and setting a date for and plan to hold local elections (United States of America);**
- 130.11 **Introduce a quota system in the employment sector for persons with disabilities (Russian Federation).**
131. **The recommendations below did not enjoy the support of Togo and would thus be noted.**
- 131.1 **Accelerate its ratification process of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Mongolia);**
- 131.2 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**
- 131.3 **Expedite action on the ratification process of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Ghana);**
- 131.4 **Consider ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Timor-Leste);**
- 131.5 **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (France); Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Switzerland); Accept, ratify or accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Uruguay);**
- 131.6 **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and amend its national legislation to ensure that it is in line with the Rome Statute, including incorporating relevant provisions in order to comply with the Court (Guatemala);**
- 131.7 **Ratify the Rome Statute as well as the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute (Liechtenstein);**
- 131.8 **Decriminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex (Australia);**
- 131.9 **Strengthen the laws to ensure that sexual orientation and gender identity are included among the grounds for prohibition of discrimination in order to prevent impunity in acts of discrimination based on those grounds (Chile);**

- 131.10 **Repeal provisions of the Criminal Code, which criminalize sexual conduct between persons of the same sex (Mexico);**
- 131.11 **Repeal legal provisions that criminalize lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, in accordance with the principle of non-discrimination (France);**
- 131.12 **Adopt and implement legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, including by decriminalizing consensual same-sex sexual conduct (Slovenia);**
- 131.13 **Decriminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex (Spain);**
- 131.14 **Protect, respect and make a reality human rights for all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or their gender expression or identity (Uruguay);**
- 131.15 **Investigate all allegations of attacks and arbitrary detention of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and bring the perpetrators to justice (Uruguay);**
- 131.16 **Adopt the additional necessary measures to guarantee the full enjoyment of human rights of vulnerable groups subjected to discrimination, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people, including investigation and punishment of cases of discrimination and the repeal of laws that criminalize and stigmatize (Argentina);**
- 131.17 **Repeal the provisions of the Penal Code that criminalize sex between consenting people of the same sex and incitement to sexual relations between consenting people of the same sex (Belgium);**
- 131.18 **Fully align national criminal laws with international human rights obligations, especially in relation to the criminalization of same-sex relations (Brazil);**
- 131.19 **Ensure a safe working environment for human rights defenders, by modifying the legislation that allows the denial of legal registration of organizations specialized in reproductive and sexual rights of women as well as associations defending the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Canada);**
- 131.20 **Review the provisions of the Criminal Code providing for prison sentences for slander and publication of false information, and introduce amendments in order to concretely protect freedom of expression and of the press (Canada);**
- 131.21 **Guarantee the right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly and the right to participate in public and political life. To reach this goal, amend all laws violating these rights and bring them in line with international human rights standards, namely the Criminal Code, the Press and Communication Code and Law No. 2011-010 on freedom of assembly and public and peaceful demonstrations (Germany);**
- 131.22 **Modify the provisions of the Penal Code relating to freedom of expression, such as those relating to defamation and publication of false news, in order to be consistent with international and regional human rights instruments (Switzerland).**

132. **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 Togo was headed by H.E Mr. Kokouvi AGBETOMEY, Minister of Justice and Relations with the Institutions of the Republic, and composed of the following members:

- Mme Nakpa POLO, Secrétaire d'État chargée des droits de l'homme;
- Mme Dédé Ahoéfa EKOUE, Ministre, Conseillère du Président de la République;
- M. Derman ASSOUMA, Député, Président de la Commission des droits de l'homme de l'Assemblée nationale;
- Mme Yobaté KOLANI-BAKALI, Députée, Rapporteur de la Commission des droits de l'homme;
- S. E. M. Yackoley K. JOHNSON, Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent du Togo à Genève;
- M. Kpatchaa MELEOU, Conseiller du Ministre de la sécurité et de la protection civile;
- Mme Akossiwa Kafoui ADZONYOH, Conseillère technique du Ministre délégué auprès du Ministre des enseignements primaire et secondaire chargé de l'enseignement technique et de la formation professionnelle;
- Mme Badabossia AZAMBO-AQUITEME, Directrice générale de la protection de l'enfance;
- Mme Mazalo TEBIE-AMOUSSOU-KOUE TETE, Directrice du genre et des droits de la femme au Ministère de l'action sociale, de la promotion de la femme et de l'alphabetisation;
- M. Kokou MINEKPOR, Directeur de la législation et de la promotion des droits de l'homme au Secrétariat d'État chargé des droits de l'homme;
- Mme Pierrette D'ALMEIDA, Directrice de la planification et de l'aménagement régional au Ministère de la planification du développement;
- M. Komla AHONDO, Chargé de mission au Secrétariat général du Gouvernement;
- M. Balom'ma BEDABA, Ministre Conseiller à la Mission permanente du Togo à Genève;
- M. Komlan Agbélenkon NARTEH-MESSAN, Chef de la Division de la coopération bilatérale et multilatérale au Ministère des affaires étrangères, de la coopération et de l'intégration africaine;
- M. Afo Ousmane SALIFOU, Premier Secrétaire à la Mission permanente du Togo à Genève.