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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Trinidad and Tobago

* 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 thirty-ninth session from 1 to 12 November 2021. The review of Trinidad and Tobago was held at the 11th meeting, on 9 November 2021. The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago was headed by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Faris Al Rawi. At its 15th meeting, held on 12 November 2021, the Working Group adopted the report on Trinidad and Tobago.
2. On 12 January 2021, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Trinidad and Tobago: Indonesia, Mauritania and the Netherlands.
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 Trinidad and Tobago:
 - (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 Austria, Belgium, Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Spain was transmitted to Trinidad and Tobago through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of delegation expressed great pleasure at participating in the review, albeit virtually, as it was an opportunity for Trinidad and Tobago to underscore the progress it had made and its position on the universal periodic review. Those who had prepared the report had been very careful to understand the manner in which they needed to engage in the conversation. In preparing and submitting its report, Trinidad and Tobago had complied with the two resolutions and the decision of the Human Rights Council on how to present such reports.
6. In its third report under the universal periodic review, Trinidad and Tobago could say conclusively that it had made significant strides as a nation. During the period 2016–2021, it had engaged in a very aggressive programme of developing its plant and machinery, people, processes and laws.
7. The protection of human rights was entrenched in the preamble of the Constitution, the document upon which Trinidad and Tobago had anchored all of its positions, as any democratic State would, and which the Government was proud to say was part of the country's body of laws. The Government's intention had been to demonstrate efficacy in achieving "our immediate outcomes".
8. On the subject of implementation of the law, Trinidad and Tobago had spent a great deal of effort to ensure that access to rights and the time frame within which justice was delivered were considered alongside the improvements achieved on technical compliance issues.

¹ [A/HRC/WG.6/39/TTO/1](#).

² [A/HRC/WG.6/39/TTO/2](#).

³ [A/HRC/WG.6/39/TTO/3](#).

9. The enshrined rights of the people of Trinidad and Tobago were clear. However, access to justice was often delayed by a criminal justice system plagued by problems and the specific litigation environment. Access to justice was driven by certain concerns. Were there adequate resources in the plant and machinery, in the people and in the processes within which the law must operate? The Working Group on the universal periodic review was asked to take note of the significant amount of time that Trinidad and Tobago had spent developing more courts.

10. There were approximately 129 new courtrooms and, consequently, new divisions. There was now a criminal division, a family and children's division and a civil division; together, they provided for a better disaggregation of the issues, better streamlining and better focusing access to justice. By virtue of a legislative amendment, the judicial compliment had gone from 36 to 64 judges in the High Court and from 12 to 15 judges in the Court of Appeals. The magisterial districts had been simplified from 12 to three and improvements had been achieved in respect of judicial tenure, which was important for the administration of justice. Furthermore, full magisterial immunity and indemnification had been provided. Trinidad and Tobago had changed the age of retirement for judges from 65 to 70 years and had opened up the pool from which to recruit judges to include more than just the countries of the Commonwealth.

11. A number of processes affecting the rights under consideration had been adopted. The rights to life and equality of treatment, the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and access to justice for migrants all came within the judicial context. The judiciary had been provided with a digitized environment and prison conditions had materially improved. Trinidad and Tobago now had the ability to facilitate virtual visits to prisons. Reforms had allowed for remand detainees to be guaranteed the right to justice. Another entire package of technological reforms had been implemented to allow for documents to be filled in online, to improve the manner in which the judiciary delivered reports and to provide access to justice on a 24/7 basis.

12. In relation to discrimination, protection of the vulnerable and domestic violence, the courts operated directly from the police station. For instance, every police station and every defence attorney's laptop formed part of the judicial network. Improvements had also been made to the criminal, children's and family procedural rules. The newly established specialist courts included peer resolution mechanisms in the children's division and a drug treatment court. Special attention had been paid to the treatment of children, whether they were offenders or victims of crime, in the child rehabilitation centres. There had also been improvements in the introduction of judge-only trials, which were utilized only to try persons charged with the most serious of offence, that is, with murder.

13. Trinidad and Tobago had made efforts to reduce the justice backlog by doing away with preliminary inquiries and other matters that occupied a significant amount of the courts' attention, such as motor vehicle and road traffic offences, cannabis-related offences and certain other minor offences. From the magisterial caseload, which was around 146,000 cases per year, 104,000 motor vehicle and road traffic cases, 8,500 cannabis-related cases and 26,000 cases involving preliminary inquiries had been removed. Justice was now real and accessible for victims of trafficking in persons, domestic violence, rape, abuse and other heinous crimes.

14. The reform package had also been very significant in the litigation undertaken to improve prison conditions. Moreover, persons who were detained on remand and who were not yet eligible to be released on bail were being brought before the courts by the State to ask for their release, on the basis that their maximum sentences had been served or that they had been detained for matters that were now considered no longer relevant because their actions had been decriminalized.

15. Among the specialist courts that were to become operational in January 2022 was a sexual offences court, which amplified the capacity of Trinidad and Tobago to combat domestic violence.

16. Those access-to-justice reforms made it possible to address many of the issues highlighted in the review. Trinidad and Tobago had spent a lot of time tackling corruption

and white-collar offences because the money that was diverted away from corruption could benefit society.

17. A civil assets forfeiture regime had been introduced to address the demonetization of cash, reform the land registry system and eliminate white-collar crime. Reforms would be made to the Proceeds of Crime Act and in counter-money-laundering legislation that would also help to counter the financing of terrorism. The public view had been endorsed by the Government, which had led to the promotion of public procurement reform and campaign financing reform. The reduction in white-collar crime allowed Trinidad and Tobago to spend monies on migration-related issues and allowed for consultations with non-profit and civil society organizations to achieve better results. In addition, laws on non-profit organizations would be developed to allow civil society to have more meaningful interaction with the Government.

18. Approximately 52 entities across Trinidad and Tobago had been consulted, which showed that the review had not just been brought about by a governmental statement but after intense stakeholder consultation. Any review of the society of Trinidad and Tobago had to touch on the issues of the vulnerable. Trinidad and Tobago had spent a significant amount of time addressing intellectual property issues, which affected persons with disabilities, and the Government was pleased to have ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled, as it had led, for example, to addressing the needs and taking into consideration the circumstances of visually and physically impaired persons and to improving access to reading materials across platforms.

19. For Trinidad and Tobago, as for the rest of the world, dealing with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had been extremely difficult. The Government had introduced a suite of services targeted at providing individual and societal relief. Trinidad and Tobago had spent billions of dollars to ensure access to salary relief, food and services. Public health regulations in conjunction with wider civil society arrangements had been used to ensure the development of a health-care system that could challenge the systems of some of the most advanced democracies and that had resulted in people learning to live with the virus.

20. The issue of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation was before the Privy Council, which was to decide on the issue in a way that reflected the wording of the Constitution. The Constitution was absolutely clear that no discrimination was tolerated in society. The improved judicial environment ensured that any jeopardy suffered as a result of the mandatory death penalty could be appealed. After all, individuals had the right to a fair and open trial. The improved judicial environment also allowed for application of the delay provisions, as set out in the Pratt and Morgan principle, and mandatory access to international courts, as set out by the case *Thomas and another v. Baptiste and others*.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

21. During the interactive dialogue, 58 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

22. Australia commended Trinidad and Tobago for its efforts to honour its international obligations regarding migrants and refugees, particularly through the establishment of a national registration process to register nationals of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

23. Austria commended Trinidad and Tobago for abolishing child marriage, among other things, and highlighted that it was crucial to rely on a legal framework in strict compliance with international standards for the implementation of asylum and migration policies. According to Austria, prison overcrowding and detention conditions continued to require priority attention.

24. The Bahamas commended the country for its engagement in the universal periodic review process. It recognized the challenges faced, including the strain that the pandemic had put on progress towards national goals and the disproportionate threats posed by climate

change. The Bahamas called upon the international community to support technical assistance and capacity-building efforts.

25. Barbados commended Trinidad and Tobago for the progress made in promoting and protecting human rights. Barbados recognized the climate crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic-related challenges and the implementation of legislative measures to reduce transmission of the virus responsible for COVID-19.

26. Belgium acknowledged the progress made by Trinidad and Tobago but was worried about the imposition of new death sentences and the prevalence of trafficking in women and girls.

27. Brazil appreciated the efforts made to ensure access to justice, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, through the implementation of information and communication technologies solutions. It also commended the implementation of the equal opportunity bill aimed at guaranteeing equal treatment for everyone regardless of sex, race, origin, religion, marital status or disability.

28. Bulgaria commended Trinidad and Tobago for the revised national policy on persons with disabilities of 2019, although adequate legislation was lacking to ensure non-discrimination and equal access in several areas. Bulgaria recognized the efforts made to address the educational needs of children with disabilities within the mainstream educational system.

29. Canada welcomed the positive steps taken by Trinidad and Tobago to implement previous recommendations and the efforts made to address the arrival of migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Canada reiterated the importance of ensuring that refugees had access to protection, health services, quality education and employment.

30. Chile appreciated the efforts made to protect the rights of the children and eliminate discrimination against women, including the abolition of child marriage and the enactment of the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Act, 2020. It also welcomed the initiatives aimed at addressing prison overcrowding and other essential needs of inmates.

31. China appreciated that Trinidad and Tobago was implementing the national development strategy for 2016–2030, promoting economic and social development, increasing employment, effectively fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, developing education and health services, protecting the rights of vulnerable groups and providing affordable housing for low-income populations.

32. Colombia highlighted the efforts made in the field of human rights, in particular the adoption of the National Workplace Policy on HIV/AIDS, the launch of a public awareness campaign about that policy and its translation into Spanish to enable Spanish-speaking immigrants to know about it.

33. Costa Rica thanked the delegation for the submission of its third report under the universal periodic review. It welcomed the progress made on gender equality in parliament, on access to justice and on the submission of national reports to United Nations treaty bodies.

34. Cuba acknowledged the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations, including the updating of legislation in various areas. It commended Trinidad and Tobago for its actions to strengthen the health system in the context of the pandemic and was honoured to have contributed to those efforts with the participation of more than 200 Cuban professionals.

35. Denmark commended the adoption of the new National Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy but remained concerned about discrimination faced by the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Denmark regretted the restrictive legal framework regarding the individual rights and freedoms of women and girls.

36. The Dominican Republic recognized the progress made in implementing the recommendations received during the previous review and urged Trinidad and Tobago to continue to make efforts to strengthen its legal and institutional framework for the protection of human rights.

37. Fiji commended Trinidad and Tobago for its progressive law reforms to facilitate better access to justice and wished the delegation a successful review.
38. Finland highly appreciated the engagement of Trinidad and Tobago in the universal periodic review process.
39. France welcomed the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago and thanked it for the presentation of the national report.
40. Georgia commended Trinidad and Tobago for the submission of its periodic reports to the treaty bodies and noted positively the establishment of a gender-based violence unit to handle related cases. It welcomed national developments towards the promotion of human rights of persons with disabilities.
41. In response to recommendations made on the abolition of the death penalty, the head of the delegation stressed that the topic was being reviewed by the country's highest court of appeal, the Privy Council, whose final judgment was expected in January 2022. The country intended to embark on a national discussion on the outcome of the decision. The death penalty had not been applied since 1999 and its application had to be reviewed at several court levels. Additionally, in the case of *Pratt and Morgan*, the Privy Council had decided that all death sentences delayed by five years must be commuted to life imprisonment.
42. The issue of sexual orientation too was before the Privy Council, as a result of the case of *Jason Jones v. the Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago*. The Privy Council would review sections 13 and 15 of the Sexual Offences Act, which criminalized same-sex consensual acts. Furthermore, the Office of the Attorney General had identified 27 other laws on the same issue that needed to be reviewed. Reforms to the Sexual Offences Act too were to be brought before parliament in November 2021.
43. Trinidad and Tobago was taking action in relation to prison reform. The country was in the final stages of consultations about new legislation on the right of parole. The power of pardon and mercy, enshrined in the Constitution, sections 87 and 89, was being applied. Specialized courts had been established, public defenders had been introduced and prisoners had been released.
44. A national registration exercise had been carried out to register refugees separately from economic migrants. Trinidad and Tobago had given shelter to close to 16,000 citizens of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, provided them with education, health care, accommodation and the right to work without discrimination.
45. A new package of amendments to laws dealing with trafficking in persons would be presented before parliament shortly. Specialized courts would become operational in January 2022. The specialized police units addressing domestic and sexual violence had introduced a new form of prosecutorial assistance.
46. In addition to having ratified the Marrakesh Treaty, Trinidad and Tobago had also ratified the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances. Reforms were in place at the Equal Opportunity Tribunal and Equal Opportunity Commission. A significant amount of the national budget was used to ensure that the vulnerable had access to State resources, including education.
47. Corporal punishment was under review. The Government viewed flogging as corporal punishment and aimed to repeal related laws. As already mentioned, a family and children's division and specialized police units had been established to address domestic and sexual violence against women and children.
48. With respect to abortion, the laws of the country allowed abortion where the risk to the mother had been medically certified. Nevertheless, the legality of abortion and the issue of voluntary sexual and reproductive health-care choices were being discussed at the level of the Office of the Prime Minister and recent policies had been developed.
49. Germany commended Trinidad and Tobago for the establishment in 2020 of a gender-based violence police unit and for passing overdue amendments to the Domestic Violence Act. Germany remained concerned about the situation of refugees and the associated problem of human trafficking.

50. Haiti congratulated Trinidad and Tobago for having adopted a national development strategy, known as Vision 2030, that was aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and that was taken into account when planning national-level activities and programmes.
51. Iceland welcomed the amendments made to the Domestic Violence Act and the establishment of a gender-based violence police unit.
52. India welcomed the initiatives taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, implementing various strategies to reduce the transmission of the virus. It appreciated the proactive measures taken to protect the human rights of persons with disabilities.
53. Indonesia appreciated the measures taken since the previous review cycle, including those taken to address the backlog of cases, improve access to justice, raise the minimum legal age for marriage and protect the rights of children.
54. Iraq welcomed the positive steps taken to promote children's rights and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.
55. Ireland commended Trinidad and Tobago for the progress made in tackling gender-based violence and violence against children, notably by adopting the amended Domestic Violence Act and raising the minimum age of marriage to 18 years. It noted the importance of taking steps to realize the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.
56. Italy welcomed the fact that Trinidad and Tobago had maintained a de facto moratorium on the death penalty. Italy also welcomed the fact that the Domestic Violence Act had been amended in 2020 to include several improvements aimed at widening its scope.
57. Japan appreciated the positive steps taken by Trinidad and Tobago, including the proclamation of the Miscellaneous Provisions (Marriage) Act, 2017. It also welcomed the progress made in terms of gender equality through the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Act, 2020, and the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, 2021.
58. Kenya welcomed the positive steps taken by Trinidad and Tobago in the promotion and protection of human rights. Kenya commended the country for its cooperation with the various special procedure mechanisms and the amendments made to various pieces of domestic legislation.
59. Malawi noted the progress made by Trinidad and Tobago in enhancing the prison service following the recommendations. It hoped that those measures would help the Government to adhere to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules).
60. Malaysia lauded Trinidad and Tobago for increasing the national minimum wage and providing support services and grants for vulnerable groups, including older persons and persons with disabilities. It encouraged Trinidad and Tobago to continue to consult relevant tools and mechanisms, including those available within the ambit of the Human Rights Council.
61. Maldives commended Trinidad and Tobago for its efforts to implement legislation to eradicate violence in order to protect human rights. In that context, it noted the adoption of the Anti-Gang Act, 2021, to curb the proliferation of gangs and violent crimes by criminalizing gang leadership, membership and gang-related activities.
62. The Marshall Islands commended Trinidad and Tobago for the adoption of the National Child Policy 2020–2030 and looked forward to its implementation and to the adoption of the list of types of work that were hazardous for children. The Marshall Islands was pleased with the adoption of the National Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy.
63. Mauritius congratulated Trinidad and Tobago for establishing a resilient health-care system during the COVID-19 pandemic and for implementing a vaccination plan to achieve herd immunity and to reduce morbidity and mortality. Mauritius applauded the steps taken to ensure that students had access to education through technology during the pandemic.
64. Mexico welcomed the accession of Trinidad and Tobago to the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or

Otherwise Print Disabled. It also recognized the actions taken to prevent and eliminate child marriage, especially raising the minimum age of marriage to 18 years.

65. Montenegro welcomed the efforts made to improve the rights of the child, combat discrimination against women, protect the rights of persons with disabilities, facilitate access to justice and fight corruption and crime. It noted with concern that Trinidad and Tobago remained a country of origin, transit and final destination for trafficking in persons.

66. Nepal appreciated the national plan of action against trafficking in persons 2021–2023, the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Act, 2020, and the gender-based violence unit established within the police service to handle related cases. It took note of the national development strategy 2016–2030, which was in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

67. The Netherlands commended Trinidad and Tobago for harmonizing the minimum age of marriage at 18 years with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Building on the establishment of a gender-based violence unit by the police, further measures would be welcomed to extend protections to same-sex couples.

68. Pakistan applauded the efforts made by Trinidad and Tobago to strengthen the social protection system and protect the most vulnerable, particularly in the context of COVID-19. It welcomed the national development strategy, the strengthening of the legislative framework to improve the justice system, the efforts made to combat domestic violence and the National Policy on Gender and Development.

69. In response to questions regarding freedom of expression and the media, the head of the delegation reported that Trinidad and Tobago had developed a whistle-blowing protection bill to protect whistle-blowers through the courts.

70. On gender-based violence, a new sexual harassment bill was being drafted to allow the Industrial Court and the Equal Opportunity Commission to hear complaints of sexual harassment and discrimination based on sexual orientation. Once enacted, that piece of legislation would grant full protection to and ensure the due process rights of victims of harassment.

71. The Offences against the Persons Act was under review. The Privy Council was considering one particular aspect of the Act in the context of the death penalty. While it was awaiting the Privy Council's decision, the Government expected to review the Act.

72. Trinidad and Tobago did not have a national human rights institution but the Equal Opportunity Act, the Equal Opportunity Commission, the Equal Opportunity Tribunal and the Office of the Ombudsman worked together in a comparable manner. Trinidad and Tobago was considering reforming its Equal Opportunity Commission into a national human rights institution.

73. On the issue of pretrial detention and prison conditions, Trinidad and Tobago had passed legislation to abolish preliminary inquiries that was expected to be enacted in January 2022. Trinidad and Tobago expected to conduct further reforms aimed at quickening the process for bringing pretrial issues to the courts' attention, therefore eliminating the backlog. The introduction of specialized courts in January 2022 would also help. Furthermore, the creation of a sexual offences court would ensure due process for dealing with allegations of trafficking and for prisoners. Amendments had been made to the supplemental reserve police and the police complaints authority, ensuring independent scrutiny of law enforcement officers.

74. As for persons with disabilities, successful institutional and legislative reforms had been introduced in terms of physical accessibility and a human rights-based approach. Trinidad and Tobago was becoming a digital country and intended to bridge several gaps in terms of accessibility. The Equal Opportunity Commission, the Equal Opportunity Tribunal, the Industrial Court and the civil courts provided adequate rights protection. In 2016 and 2018, Trinidad and Tobago had made reforms to introduce digital operations in the judicial systems aimed at completing virtual access to justice.

75. Regarding education, the Ministry of Education and the Office of the Prime Minister were engaged in public consultations with several educational institutes. The Concordat of

1960, which unified religious educational systems with government systems, would need to be taken into consideration when reviewing the Education Act.

76. The definition of discrimination had been a matter of public consultation.

77. Panama appreciated the presentation of the national report of Trinidad and Tobago and wished the State success during the universal periodic review cycle.

78. Paraguay welcomed the adoption of a national policy to address refugee and asylum issues. It appreciated the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and urged Trinidad and Tobago to develop national laws that would allow for the integration and full realization of their rights.

79. Peru acknowledged the improvements made to the Domestic Violence Act and the approval of the National Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy.

80. The Philippines lauded Trinidad and Tobago for its ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It acknowledged the country's technical cooperation efforts with OHCHR on strengthening capacities to implement its international human rights obligations. It also noted the efforts made to strengthen measures against trafficking in persons.

81. Portugal noted the adoption of the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Act, 2020, the establishment of a gender-based violence unit, the approval of the National Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy, the amendment to the Miscellaneous Provisions (Marriage) Act outlawing child marriage.

82. Senegal commended the efforts of Trinidad and Tobago to implement the recommendations addressed to it during the second review cycle through, inter alia, the strengthening of its mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights.

83. Serbia welcomed the establishment and implementation of the vaccination deployment plan against COVID-19 aimed at achieving herd immunity and reducing morbidity and mortality among the population.

84. Slovenia commended the response of Trinidad and Tobago to COVID-19. Slovenia noted the non-ratification of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and expressed concern about trafficking in women and girls for labour and sexual exploitation.

85. Spain congratulated Trinidad and Tobago on the legislative progress made to eradicate gender-based violence, as well as the creation of a specific unit to address such violence.

86. Togo welcomed the efforts made by Trinidad and Tobago to implement the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and encouraged it to continue to make progress in protecting human rights.

87. Tunisia welcomed the approval of the Anti-Terrorism Act; the enactment of the Civil Asset Recovery and Management and Unexplained Wealth Act, 2019, the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Act, 2020, and the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, 2021; the establishment of the National Anti-Money-Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Committee; the reforms to the judicial sector; and the submission of a series of reports to United Nations treaty bodies.

88. Ukraine was concerned that Trinidad and Tobago remained a transit country for trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, for labour and sexual exploitation, and stressed the need to enforce anti-trafficking legislation by investigating, prosecuting and punishing perpetrators.

89. The United Kingdom noted the increased powers given to the police complaints authority to improve accountability and urged the Government to consider implementing reforms to better tackle corruption.

90. The United States recognized the steps taken by Trinidad and Tobago to regularize the status of some Venezuelans but urged the Government to expand registration for all Venezuelans and allow them to reside, work and gain access to emergency health services.

91. Uruguay welcomed the efforts made, including the recent presentation of its initial report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
92. Vanuatu noted that granting expanded powers to the courts to grant interim and protection orders based on a single act or omission and that raising the limit on the monetary compensation that a victim of domestic violence could receive would help to better protect children, women and victims of domestic violence.
93. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela highlighted the measures implemented to fight the pandemic, including through social support for affected people. It noted that the education system up to university had been strengthened and the social support provided to students. It commended the country's commitment to eradicating poverty and the national development strategy.
94. Argentina welcomed the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago and thanked it for presenting the national report.
95. Botswana acknowledged the progress made in addressing gender-based violence and promoting access to justice in the context of COVID-19 restrictions. However, it remained concerned about the persistence of gender-based violence, which had been exacerbated by movement restrictions during the pandemic, and the upsurge in irregular migration and trafficking in persons.
96. Concerning training on gender-based violence, the head of the delegation emphasized that the education that judges received from the Judicial and Legal Services Commission was constitutionally entrenched. The Commission provided continuous training on gender-based violence. Specialized courts for domestic violence had been created. The country's domestic violence reforms included obtaining immediate protection orders and interim orders online at the police station where the report was made. With the introduction of virtual courts, judges could issue injunctive provisions instantaneously for domestic violence.
97. Regarding sexual offences, Trinidad and Tobago had incorporated the provisions of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography into its domestic legislation. The Children's Act and the amendments to the Sexual Offences Act already criminalized child pornography. Two very robust laws had been tabled before parliament for debate in the context of amendments to the Sexual Offences Act to address revenge pornography and voyeurism. At the same time, cybercrime laws also dealt with the malicious use of pornography.
98. Regarding killings attributed to the police, the head of the delegation reported that legislation had been passed ensuring very broad access to justice and supervision from independent bodies of law enforcement.
99. Trinidad and Tobago had an aggressive agenda for countering corruption, the financing of terrorism and money-laundering. The country's Financial Obligations Regulations, the Financial Institutions Act, the Proceeds of Crime Act, the Insurance Act and several amendments had been wrapped up to fight criminality.
100. Trinidad and Tobago had drafted legislation to address the issue of returnee children and child victims of crimes in war-torn areas.
101. The recommendations on legalizing abortion in certain cases, such as in cases of rape, were being discussed in the context of proposed amendments to the Offences against the Persons Act.
102. Trinidad and Tobago had introduced amendments to the Trafficking in Persons Act that would be discussed by parliament. The head of the delegation referred to the difficult situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and considered Trinidad and Tobago a safe haven for many immigrants.
103. The country's immigration detention centre was under constant review. The implementation of orders of supervision under the Immigration Act meant that pretrial detention was not necessary. The Attorney General's Office had asked the courts to review the situation of persons who were either in pretrial detention or who were serving their sentence and who could be released, which had resulted in hundreds of people being released.

104. Child labour was a criminal offence under the Children's Act, which also referred to mandatory education up to the age of 16 years.

105. Regarding climate change, the Prime Minister had recently attended the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, where he expressed his commitment to addressing climate change. Trinidad and Tobago was involved in carbon capture and was investing in hydrogen and hydrogenation of the country's carbon content to achieve the commitments made in Paris and Glasgow.

106. Furthermore, the Government had used billions of dollars of its national budget in COVID-19 relief and in ensuring grants for vulnerable people and relief packages in the form of rental assistance, substitute employment payments, salary relief and food baskets, and to ensure national insurance for vulnerable citizens. Trinidad and Tobago had been actively involved in vaccinations and had applied the World Health Organization protocols.

107. In conclusion, the head of the delegation considered the universal periodic review a productive exercise in ensuring that human rights were voluntarily reflected upon, that the situation of human rights was voluntarily ameliorated and that relevant information was voluntarily shared. Trinidad and Tobago was committed to the United Nations and was prepared to do its part with a view to protecting future generations.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

108. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Trinidad and Tobago and enjoy the support of Trinidad and Tobago:**

108.1 **Continue efforts to harmonize national legislation with the international human rights instruments which Trinidad and Tobago has ratified or to which it has acceded (Iraq);**

108.2 **Assess the pertinence of creating a national human rights institution in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Peru);**

108.3 **Provide human rights education and training for government officials and for law enforcement officers, including through international cooperation with partners (Indonesia);**

108.4 **Develop sustainable and human rights-centred training programmes for the police and the judiciary regarding issues such as gender-based violence, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, sexual exploitation and forms of child abuse (Panama);**

108.5 **Complete enactment of the Special Reserve Police and Municipal Police Complaints Authority bill into law (Kenya);**

108.6 **Enhance training programmes for judicial and law enforcement officers in the areas of gender-based violence, human trafficking and child abuse (Botswana);**

108.7 **Continue efforts to increase the training of personnel and set up the necessary infrastructure to properly include students with disabilities and children with special needs (Bulgaria);**

108.8 **Take concrete actions to curb corruption by creating transparent public procurement processes at all levels of government and investigating police officers who take or solicit bribes (United States of America);**

108.9 **Continue to implement policies to mitigate the effects of climate change and strengthen the resilience of communities from a human rights approach (Dominican Republic);**

- 108.10 Ensure the meaningful participation of women, children, persons with disabilities and local communities in the development and implementation of climate change and disaster risk reduction frameworks (Fiji);
- 108.11 Maintain its commitment to advocating for climate action that is consistent with existing human rights agreements, obligations, standards and principles (Barbados);
- 108.12 Adopt and implement measures to adequately protect the population against the risks of natural disasters, inevitable due to climate change (Haiti);
- 108.13 Continue to combat violent crimes to ensure the safety of the people (China);
- 108.14 Strengthen the criminal justice system and improve the situation in prisons in accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) (Mexico);
- 108.15 Investigate reports of arbitrary or unlawful killings and human trafficking by the police and reports of excessive use of force by prison guards and hold accountable any officers found to be responsible (United States of America);
- 108.16 Strengthen measures against trafficking in persons by creating awareness programmes for law enforcement officials and the population to encourage the reporting of cases of trafficking, and continue efforts to investigate, prosecute and punish those who commit this crime (Mexico);
- 108.17 Strengthen the law and resources to address human trafficking, specifically for women and girls (Costa Rica);
- 108.18 Further strengthen the anti-trafficking legislation and seek to increase regional cooperation in this area, primarily through greater exchange of information (Serbia);
- 108.19 Intensify efforts to address the causes of trafficking in women and girls and to strengthen the implementation of legislation against trafficking in persons, thoroughly investigating, prosecuting and punishing the perpetrators (Peru);
- 108.20 Intensify capacity-building programmes for public officials in combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and ensure the provision of adequate assistance to victims (Philippines);
- 108.21 Intensify efforts to address trafficking in persons, including of women and children, bringing all those responsible to justice and providing shelter, legal assistance and care to the victims (Portugal);
- 108.22 Intensify efforts to combat trafficking in persons and forced labour (Senegal);
- 108.23 Boost laws and regulations to combat trafficking in women and girls (Togo);
- 108.24 Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development and to improve people's living standards (China);
- 108.25 Strengthen actions to improve the standard of living of its population, particularly women, children and the elderly, as part of the implementation of the Trinidad and Tobago national development strategy (Vision 2030) (Cuba);
- 108.26 Continue giving priority to social programmes for the well-being of its population, with an emphasis on rural communities (Cuba);
- 108.27 Continue taking steps to ensure robust social protection measures for vulnerable groups (Malaysia);
- 108.28 Sustain efforts to further strengthen the social protection network (Pakistan);

- 108.29 **Continue strengthening the institutions responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights, particularly in the areas of social protection and poverty alleviation (Barbados);**
- 108.30 **Continue advancing in the eradication of poverty through its successful social welfare policies (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 108.31. **Reinforce measures to fulfil the rights to housing and to health (Portugal);**
- 108.32 **Advance in guaranteeing the right to health for people living with HIV/AIDS by strengthening interinstitutional coordination and establishing programmes and strategies to reduce the HIV infection rate, especially among adolescents and young women (Colombia);**
- 108.33 **Provide effective access for women to comprehensive information and services on sexual and reproductive health (Malaysia);**
- 108.34 **Address the root causes of the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and implement preventive strategies to combat HIV (Maldives);**
- 108.35 **Continue to apply human rights principles as it seeks to implement its COVID-19 recovery (Barbados);**
- 108.36 **Continue efforts to ensure effective access to basic health services for all segments of the population (Senegal);**
- 108.37 **Continue to strengthen its national health system to continue protecting the lives of its people, especially the most vulnerable (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 108.38 **Further strengthen efforts to address barriers to education with a view to enhancing school enrolment, attendance and retention rates, especially among girls (Philippines);**
- 108.39 **Improve implementation of national legislation and policies to reduce gender-based violence and protect victims and survivors, including by improving staff training for the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service's gender-based violence unit (Australia);**
- 108.40 **Take stronger measures to prevent, mitigate and respond to sexual and gender-based violence, including by providing adequate financial, staffing and technical support for the full implementation of the gender-based violence unit (Canada);**
- 108.41 **Strengthen measures to prevent and combat gender-based and domestic violence with the equal and meaningful participation of women in its decision-making process (Indonesia);**
- 108.42 **Enforce legislation related to gender-based violence (Ukraine);**
- 108.43 **Strengthen efforts to combat domestic and gender-based violence by ensuring the systematic prosecution of all cases of violence against women and girls and adopting prevention programmes (Marshall Islands);**
- 108.44 **Prioritize access to shelters, medical services, legal aid and counselling services for women exiting domestic violence situations (Botswana);**
- 108.45 **Reduce the gender wage gap by guaranteeing and enforcing the principle of equal pay for work of equal value in all sectors (Maldives);**
- 108.46 **Continue consolidating the achievements made in the promotion of the rights and well-being of women through the National Policy on Gender and Development (Dominican Republic);**
- 108.47 **Continue with efforts to promote gender parity and enhance women's participation in the political, economic and social spheres (Pakistan);**

- 108.48 Continue to strengthen measures to facilitate the economic empowerment of women, especially those in rural areas (Philippines);
- 108.49 Develop and implement legislation that prohibits child marriage (Marshall Islands);
- 108.50 Strengthen measures to combat violence against women by creating specialized police units to investigate these crimes and mitigate impunity (Brazil);
- 108.51 Deepen the progress made in child protection through the rapid adoption of its national child policy (France);
- 108.52 Continue working on the harmonization and adoption of national legislation towards full compliance with its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Georgia);
- 108.53 Enhance measures to prevent and eliminate child labour, including the involvement of children in hazardous work (India);
- 108.54 Take all necessary measures and allocate additional resources to ensure quality education for children, in particular for girls and children with disabilities (India);
- 108.55 Continue the momentum towards full compliance with its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Bahamas);
- 108.56 Continue the efforts exerted to prevent and eliminate child labour and to prevent the involvement of children in hazardous work (Tunisia);
- 108.57 Continue the efforts exerted to protect and promote the rights of the child and to provide care, protection and rehabilitation for child victims of violence (Tunisia);
- 108.58 Adopt domestic legislation to reflect the provisions and principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and amend all legislation that discriminates against persons with disabilities (Australia);
- 108.59 Align its domestic legislation with the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Costa Rica);
- 108.60 Proceed with consideration of strengthening the legal framework for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities (Georgia);
- 108.61 Accelerate its efforts to develop domestic policies and legislation to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, including through the newly established interministerial committee to oversee the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Japan);
- 108.62 Continue the efforts to enable persons with disabilities to secure jobs in the public and private sectors (Kenya);
- 108.63 Maintain efforts, through the interministerial committee, to develop policies and legislation to protect the rights of persons with disabilities in order to address the lack of legislation and to achieve the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Bahamas);
- 108.64 Continue improvements on the protection of people with disabilities, both in its legal framework and in social assistance, and the provision of resources to improve accessibility in all areas (Spain);
- 108.65 Adopt legislation to reflect the provisions and principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and consider amending all legislation that discriminates against persons with disabilities (Bulgaria).
109. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined and noted by Trinidad and Tobago:
- 109.1 Consider acceding to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Malawi) (Senegal) (Argentina);

- 109.2 Consider acceding to the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Vanuatu);
- 109.3 Consider acceding to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Malawi);
- 109.4 Consider acceding to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Peru);
- 109.5 Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark) (Fiji) (Germany) (Italy) (Mauritius); Ratify urgently the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Austria);
- 109.6 Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol (Finland);
- 109.7 Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Paraguay);
- 109.8 Take necessary measures to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);
- 109.9 Continue efforts to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Chile);
- 109.10 Consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Vanuatu);
- 109.11 Ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Finland);
- 109.12 Consider ratifying the second optional protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Nepal);
- 109.13 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (as previously recommended) (Slovenia);
- 109.14 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, so as to bring the legislation into conformity with the de facto situation (Netherlands);
- 109.15 Establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing capital punishment and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Germany);
- 109.16 Establish a de jure moratorium on the death penalty with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Australia);
- 109.17 Fully abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Iceland);

- 109.18 **Abolish de jure the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol relating to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (France);**
- 109.19 **Abolish the use of the death penalty and, as a first step, immediately establish an official moratorium on executions, and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Finland);**
- 109.20 **Promote a public debate with a view to abolishing the death penalty at all times and to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Austria);**
- 109.21 **Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Portugal);**
- 109.22 **Establish a de jure moratorium on the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Italy);**
- 109.23 **Establish a de jure moratorium on the application of the death penalty that may lead to its removal from legislation and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Spain);**
- 109.24 **Sign the Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Panama);**
- 109.25 **Continue to strengthen efforts to further promote human rights protection by participating in more international agreements, particularly the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Japan);**
- 109.26 **Continue to strengthen efforts to further promote human rights protection by participating in more international agreements, particularly the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Japan);**
- 109.27 **Strengthen awareness-raising campaigns on the death penalty and hold public debates on the subject from a human rights perspective, including in its parliament, with a view to realizing its definitive abolition and the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, as soon as possible (Uruguay);**
- 109.28 **Extend a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Belgium) (Costa Rica) (Ukraine);**
- 109.29 **Align its national framework for the ratification and implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Costa Rica);**
- 109.30 **Adopt an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 109.31 **Continue strengthening the implementation and monitoring of recommendations accepted during the universal periodic review and establish a mechanism to link them with the 2030 Agenda (Dominican Republic);**

- 109.32 Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Iraq) (Montenegro) (Ukraine); Take steps to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Malaysia); Establish and launch a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris principles (Chile);
- 109.33 Consider establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (India);
- 109.34 Consider, by all means, the creation of a national institution for the promotion and protection of human rights in compliance with the Paris principles (Haiti);
- 109.35. Create a national human rights institution with powers, mechanisms and means of operation that guarantee its independence and effectiveness (Togo);
- 109.36 Establish a permanent national mechanism for implementing, reporting on and following up on the recommendations on human rights, considering the possibility of receiving cooperation for this purpose, within the framework of Sustainable Development Goals 16 and 17 (Paraguay);
- 109.37 Establish a well-resourced national human rights mechanism in line with the Paris Principles to address discrimination and violence against LGBTI+ persons (Iceland);
- 109.38 Request technical support from OHCHR to advance the ratification of the main international human rights instruments to which the country is not yet a party, as well as to ensure the alignment of its national legal system with the obligations derived from ratified human rights treaties (Uruguay);
- 109.39 Amend its national framework to include sexual orientation, gender identity and living with HIV/AIDS as prohibited grounds for discrimination (Costa Rica);
- 109.40 Adopt the additional measures necessary to guarantee the full enjoyment of human rights by groups in vulnerable situations who suffer discrimination, especially because of their sexual orientation or gender identity (Argentina);
- 109.41 Amend the Equal Opportunity Act to prohibit discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and remove laws criminalizing consensual same-sex relations (Australia);
- 109.42 Decriminalize same-sex conduct between consenting adults by repealing sections 13 and 16 of the Sexual Offences Act (Denmark);
- 109.43 Take all necessary measures to fight against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (France);
- 109.44 Modify the Equal Opportunities Act to include the prohibition of discrimination on grounds of sexual preference and orientation (Germany);
- 109.45 Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex by removing sections 13 and 16 of the Sexual Offences Act (Iceland);
- 109.46 Take further steps to combat all forms of violence, abuse and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Italy);
- 109.47 Ensure full implementation of legislation ending discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation and conduct independent investigations into all acts of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Netherlands);
- 109.48 Reform laws to strengthen protections against discrimination and gender-based violence, including for LGBTQI+ persons, including by establishing a law criminalizing discrimination against LGBTQI+

individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (United States of America);

109.49 Implement policies and programmes to prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Canada);

109.50 Continue to promote infrastructure construction and accelerate the development of rural areas (China);

109.51 Continue advancing in the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights through the adoption of a national plan on the matter (Colombia);

109.52 Continue to implement effective climate change and disaster risk reduction policies, and advocate for climate action by all nations (Vanuatu);

109.53 Establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition (Costa Rica);

109.54 Continue to refrain from applying the death penalty and impose an official moratorium on the death penalty (Fiji);

109.55 Initiate a process for a State review and discussion of the relevance of the death penalty to Trinidad and Tobago, with a view to considering its complete abolition (Fiji);

109.56 Establish a moratorium on the death penalty and consider its abolition and replacement by an alternative penalty that is fair, proportional and in accordance with international standards (Haiti);

109.57 Pursue efforts towards the full and unequivocal abolition of the death penalty (Marshall Islands);

109.58 Take the necessary steps to move towards the abolition of the death penalty and consider introducing a formal moratorium on its application (Mexico);

109.59 Take steps to abolish the death penalty (Paraguay);

109.60 Develop awareness-raising campaigns concerning the absence of deterrent effects on the application of the death penalty (Spain);

109.61 Repeal provisions allowing for the imposition of the death penalty as the mandatory punishment for some offences and replace them with an alternative sentencing framework (Belgium);

109.62 Adopt comprehensive public policies aimed at guaranteeing the rights of persons deprived of liberty and eliminate overcrowding in prisons (Chile);

109.63 Carry out the necessary reforms to the judicial and penitentiary system, in order to resolve the problem of prison overcrowding and improve conditions of detention (France);

109.64 Take further measures to improve prison infrastructure and the system for determining the security classification of inmates (Canada);

109.65 Review and update the Miscellaneous Provisions (Prisons) Act, 2014, and operationalize the national budget and other sectoral mechanisms to improve material conditions in detention facilities (Ireland);

109.66 Take all necessary steps to end instances of individuals being remanded in pretrial custody or immigration detention for extended periods (Ireland);

109.67 Continue to improve conditions for prisoners and persons awaiting trial by further investing in infrastructure, training personnel and taking actions such as expanding judicial discretion to reduce bail terms and amounts for people accused of petty offences (Malawi);

- 109.68 Ensure that prison conditions meet international human rights standards, including by starting a reform of the pretrial detention system to reduce the number of persons in pretrial detention (Austria);
- 109.69 Develop a national action plan to raise public awareness of trafficking in persons and ensure adequate assistance to victims, in line with the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 8 (Paraguay);
- 109.70 Carry out effective measures to prevent trafficking in women and girls and ensure the rehabilitation and social integration of victims (Nepal);
- 109.71 Scale up and strengthen the protection and reparations available for victims of trafficking, paying particular attention to the impact of the humanitarian refugee crisis in the region (Belgium);
- 109.72 Take concrete steps to strengthen the protection mechanisms and the emergency and long-term support services for all suspected victims of modern slavery, including those from vulnerable migrant communities (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 109.73 Revise the health and family life education curriculum and integrate comprehensive sexuality education in line with international standards (Iceland);
- 109.74 Consider amending the Offences against the Persons Act by legalizing abortion in cases of rape, incest and serious fetal malformation and by decriminalizing it in all other cases (Spain);
- 109.75 Encourage the public and parliamentary debates necessary for the revision of the law on the voluntary interruption of pregnancy under a human rights approach, especially to allow this procedure in cases of rape, incest, fetal malformation or when pregnancy threatens the woman's life or health (Uruguay);
- 109.76 Adopt a coherent strategy to ensure universal access to education for all, including girls, and prevent them from dropping out early from school (Mauritius);
- 109.77 Amend its legislation in order to legalize the termination of pregnancies in cases of risk to the life of the pregnant woman, rape, incest and severe impairment of the fetus (Denmark);
- 109.78 Take the necessary steps to combat discrimination and violence against women and children and on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Fiji);
- 109.79 Continue the efforts made to fight against violence and discrimination against women, including by abolishing the law criminalizing the voluntary termination of pregnancy (France);
- 109.80 Address the problem of gender-based violence and fully implement the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Act, 2020, and thereby guarantee that particularly vulnerable migrant women have access to gender-based violence services and are protected from trafficking (Germany);
- 109.81 Decriminalize abortion by amending the Offences against the Persons Act (Iceland);
- 109.82 Continue the efforts to ensure full and effective implementation of the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Act, 2020 (Italy);
- 109.83 Adopt a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women in its national legislation in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Montenegro);
- 109.84 Adopt the national gender policy and the national strategic action plan to end sexual and gender-based violence to ensure that gender-based violence is prioritized and receives increased budgetary allocation to implement

communication campaigns addressing negative social norms and special measures to prevent sexual and gender-based violence against all women, girls, men and boys, regardless of their legal or migratory status, nationality, gender identity or sexual orientation (Panama);

109.85 Implement a national gender policy and action plan endowed with sufficient resources to combat sexual and gender-based violence (Spain);

109.86 Continue taking measures to eradicate all forms of violence and discrimination against women, girls and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people (Chile);

109.87 Continue the efforts to combat violence against women and girls, establish gender equality and support women's empowerment (Tunisia);

109.88 Urgently adopt the implementation plan for 2020–2030 of the white paper on the national child policy (Portugal);

109.89 Implement measures to ensure that all children, including migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, have equal access to all levels of education and provide age-appropriate comprehensive sexual education (Portugal);

109.90 Enact legislation for the protection of refugees and the granting of asylum under international refugee instruments (Australia);

109.91 Adopt a legislative framework relating to refugees facilitating their protection and integration (France);

109.92 Align national legislation on refugees and asylum seekers to international obligations and improve efforts to address human trafficking (Italy);

109.93 Expedite legislative processes to harmonize the Immigration Act with international human rights standards and develop an asylum act to ensure the full protection of refugees and asylum seekers, in accordance with international standards (Paraguay);

109.94 Consider adopting additional legal and policy measures to comply with the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, with a view to preventing cases of detention and/or refoulement of asylum seekers (Brazil);

109.95 Incorporate the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees into national law (Ireland);

109.96 Develop an effective legal framework at the national level in compliance with international norms and standards to ensure protection and safeguards for asylum seekers, including by providing adequate reception conditions (Austria);

109.97 Ensure the rights granted to asylum seekers and refugees under international refugee conventions by the development of national legislation (Germany);

109.98 Implement a road map to accelerate the development of national refugee legislation to incorporate international commitments into domestic law (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

109.99 Adopt the necessary measures to guarantee the effective protection of migrants, asylum seekers or those who require international protection, ensuring that the principle of non-refoulement and their access to health and education services is observed (Mexico);

109.100 Set up a national refugee status determination procedure in accordance with the relevant provisions of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Togo);

109.101 **Develop national legislation on refugees that is in line with existing international standards and, in the interim, implement the existing national policy on asylum and refugees by addressing smuggling and trafficking and putting in place a refugee determination system (Canada).**

110. **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 Trinidad and Tobago was headed by Mr. Faris Al Rawi, MP - The Honourable Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs and composed of the following members:

- Ms. Renuka Sagrarsingh-Sooklal - The Honourable Minister in the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs;
 - Mr. Ian Rampersad – Director, International Law and Human Rights Unit, Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs and Focal Point for the Trinidad and Tobago Delegation;
 - Ms. Athea Jones – Legal Counsel, International Law and Human Rights Unit, Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs;
 - Mr. Joshua Singh – Paralegal, International Law and Human Rights Unit, Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs;
 - Ms. Allison St. Brice – Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the Office of the United Nations, Geneva.
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