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|  | United Nations | A/HRC/WG.6/36/L.1 | |
| _unlogo | **General Assembly**  **UNEDITED VERSION** | | Distr.: Limited  4 November 2020  Original: English |

**Human Rights Council**

**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**Thirty-sixth session**

Geneva, 2–13 November 2020

Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review[[1]](#footnote-2)\*

Belarus

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-sixth session from 2 to 13 November 2020. The review of Belarus was held at the 1st meeting, on 2 November 2020. The delegation of Belarus was headed by the Permanent Representative of Belarus to UNOG, Yury Ambrazevich. At its 10th meeting, held on 6 November 2020, the Working Group adopted the report on Belarus.

2. On 14 January 2020, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Belarus: Afghanistan, Mexico, and Sudan.

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 Belarus:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/36/BLR/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.6/36/BLR/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/36/BLR/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Canada, Germany, Portugal, on behalf of Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay was transmitted to Belarus through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

To be completed by 20 November 2020

A. Presentation by the State under review

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

5. During the interactive dialogue, 92 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

**6. The following recommendations will be examined by Belarus, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the forty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council.**

6.1 **Ratify the international human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party (Costa Rica);**

6.2 **Carry out an assessment and identify international treaties that correspond to national interests and can be implemented into legislation in the short and long term (Tajikistan);**

6.3 **Consider ratifying the main human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party, in particular the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Ecuador);**

6.4 **Continue its sound strengthening of human rights law, including through international treaties (Nicaragua);**

6.5 **Take further steps to consider acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);**

6.6 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France); Promptly ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Japan); Accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Ukraine);**

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

6.8 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Bulgaria); (Slovakia); 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 (Croatia); Sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Honduras);**

6.9 **Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Nepal); (North Macedonia);**

6.10 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, considering establishing a moratorium on executions as the first step towards the official abolition of the death penalty (Argentina); Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and as an interim measure, establish a moratorium on executions as soon as possible, as previously recommended (Belgium); Introduce a moratorium on the death penalty as a short-term objective and consider the full abolition of the death penalty and accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Austria); Establish a moratorium on death penalty with a view to its eventual abolition, and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Latvia); Establish a de facto moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards its abolition and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as previously recommended (Portugal); Establish a moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards the definitive abolition of the death penalty, and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Spain);**

6.11 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and as a first step establish an official moratorium on executions (Finland);**

6.12 **Implement legislation and policies needed for abolishment of the death penalty, including through ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (ICCPR-OP 2) (Ukraine);**

6.13 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and immediately take appropriate measures to release all political prisoners in the country (Slovenia);**

6.14 **Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and establish a National Preventive Mechanism, in accordance with the Protocol (Chile);**

6.15 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Cyprus)(Denmark); Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ukraine);**

6.16 **Sign and ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Honduras); Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Luxembourg);**

6.17 **Ratify and fully align its national legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as previously recommended (Latvia);**

6.18 **Ratify the Rome Statute in its 2010 version as well as the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute on the crime of aggression (Liechtenstein);**

6.19 **Ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Georgia);**

6.20 **Ratify the Istanbul Convention and criminalize domestic violence (Italy);**

6.21 **Sign and ratify the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty (Honduras);**

6.22 **Expedite accession to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (Malta);**

6.23 **Continue strengthening its cooperation with thematic procedures of the Human Rights Council and providing them with the information upon request (Viet Nam);**

6.24 **Improve its cooperation with human rights mechanisms, including by a standing invitation to the special procedures, and in particular by fully cooperating with the Special Rapporteur for the country (Costa Rica);**

6.25 **Cooperate with the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council by addressing a standing invitation to the special procedures mandate holders and accepting a visit of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus (France);**

6.26 **Fully cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, other special procedures of the Human Rights Council and with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and allow their unfettered access to the country (Greece);**

6.27 **Consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, as previously recommended (Latvia);**

6.28 **Engage constructively with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus and other special procedures, and issue a standing invitation to all of them (Ukraine);**

6.29 **Fully cooperate with the Special Rapporteur, other special procedures mandate holders and the Office of the High Commissioner, and give them unfettered access to the country (Luxembourg);**

6.30 **Issue a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders (Montenegro);**

6.31 **Pursue its constructive cooperation with human rights mechanisms and special procedures (Nicaragua);**

6.32 **Pursue cooperation with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, including allowing the Special Rapporteur for Belarus access to the country (Peru);**

6.33 **Meaningfully engage in cooperation with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus and with other United Nations Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures (Poland);**

6.34 **Enhance further cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms, in particular the Special Rapporteur on the situation of the human rights in Belarus by extending an invitation to visit the country (Republic of Korea);**

6.35 **Fully cooperate with the OHCHR and Special Procedures mandate holders, including the Special Rapporteur on Belarus (Romania);**

6.36 **Implement and allow full access to the UN Special Rapporteur in Belarus and to cooperate with other UN Special Rapporteurs and the OSCE (Slovenia);**

6.37 **Continue providing special thematic procedures of the Human Rights Council with information relating to their mandated activities (Sri Lanka);**

6.38 **Continue and strengthen the cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the special procedures mandate holders (Sudan);**

6.39 **Grant unimpeded access and cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, as well as with the OHCHR, as previously recommended (Latvia);**

6.40 **Cooperate with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Belarus by granting her free, full and unhindered access (Lithuania);**

6.41 **Ensure favorable conditions needed for OHCHR to fulfil its mandate in accordance with the HRC resolution 45/1 (Ukraine);**

6.42 **Implement the recommendations in the OSCE Rapporteur’s Report under the Moscow Mechanism (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

6.43 **Grant unfettered access to international human rights monitors and engage in a full, transparent and constructive cooperation with them (Slovakia);**

6.44 **Ensure that any constitutional reform process includes all relevant stakeholders and guarantees the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as enshrined in international and regional human rights treaties (Austria);**

6.45 **Continue efforts aimed at ensuring respect for the foundations of the country’s political and legal system and preserving constitutional standards (Syrian Arab Republic);**

6.46 **Continue efforts to fulfill international obligations by further developing and implementing comprehensive national plans and programmes (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea);**

6.47 **Make an earnest effort to address the human rights situation in the country (Japan);**

6.48 **Continue efforts in ensuring the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by all its citizens (Nigeria);**

6.49 **Further support the development of a system of specialized state and public institutions for the protection and promotion of specific categories of human rights (Tajikistan);**

6.50 **Consider establishing an independent national human rights institution fully compliant with the Paris Principles (Afghanistan); Consider establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris principles (India); Step up efforts to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Nepal); Take steps to establish a national human rights institution and bring it in line with the Paris Principles (Pakistan); Consider establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Sudan); Continue taking efforts to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, as previously recommended (Malaysia);**

6.51 **Establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Burkina Faso);**

6.52 **Continue its efforts to establish a national human rights institution with a view to oversee, coordinate and set standards for the effective implementation of human rights priorities (Turkey);**

6.53 **Establish a functioning and independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Ukraine);**

6.54 **Create a National Institute for Human Rights in line with the Paris Principles (Senegal);**

6.55 **Adopt a new national action plan for the promotion and protection of human rights in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including civil society (Switzerland);**

6.56 **Continue to formulate and to implement national plans to strengthen capacity building in the field of human rights (China);**

6.57 **Continue implementing national programs and action plans, aimed at the promotion and protection of human rights (Cuba);**

6.58 **Continue to implement the political initiatives announced by the Belarusian Government, including the launch of a comprehensive national dialogue (Syrian Arab Republic);**

6.59 **Further strengthen cooperation with civil society in the development and application of regulations and laws, the implementation of national policies, strategies and programs and of international technical assistance projects (Tajikistan);**

6.60 **Engage in national dialogue that respects the principles of the rule of law and democracy (Japan);**

6.61 **Undertake the necessary constitutional reforms and establish a national dialogue with civil society (Kazakhstan);**

6.62 **Following up on the positive and constructive engagement with the Belarusian civil society and expanding the range of issues covered by this engagement, such as civil and political rights (Lebanon);**

6.63 **Engage in genuine dialogue with civil society represented by the Coordination Council in order to hold free and fair presidential elections in the presence of international observers (Lithuania);**

6.64 **Initiate an open and inclusive dialogue with representatives of civil society, academia and the general public, aimed at ensuring the right of the people of Belarus to free and fair elections (Norway);**

6.65 **Put an end to all acts of intimidation and repression against its own population and engage in transparent, inclusive dialogue with the opposition (Romania);**

6.66 **Engage in a genuine dialogue facilitated by the OSCE Chair-in-Office with the voices of Belarusian civil society, including women leading the protests, to determine a democratic path forward in allowing the Belarusian people to determine their future (United States of America);**

6.67 **Join the Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes, as elaborated by the ACT Group (Liechtenstein);**

6.68 **Adopt comprehensive legislation to prohibit all forms of discrimination, investigate statements inciting racial hatred and racial violence, and establish appropriate sanctions against discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Argentina);**

6.69 **Adopt comprehensive legislation against discrimination, including protection against discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (Chile);**

6.70 **Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that defines all forms of discrimination in accordance with international standards, and guarantee women equal access to work (Greece);**

6.71 **Take further targeted measures to prevent discrimination in all its forms (Iraq);**

6.72 **Pursue government activities to improve the national system of social protection to promote the rights of vulnerable groups especially the persons with disabilities (Lebanon);**

6.73 **Adopt a comprehensive anti-discriminatory legislation defining direct and indirect discrimination, as well as other forms of its manifestation (Netherlands);**

6.74 **Set up social integration programs for Roms enabling them to exercise their rights (Senegal);**

6.75 **Combat discrimination and violence on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity and draft specific legislation for the training of law enforcement officers and other officials to avoid discriminatory acts against LGBTI persons (Mexico);**

6.76 **Design and implement the necessary legal instruments to combat discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as awareness raising programs against violence and harassment suffered by the LGBTI community (Spain);**

6.77 **Enact specific legislation containing a definition of racial discrimination in line with article 1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and making racial discrimination an offence punishable by law (Angola);**

6.78 **Take further measures aimed at the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including from a human rights perspective (Viet Nam);**

6.79 **Consider including measures aimed at ensuring increased efficiency and accountability of public service delivery into its national development strategy (Azerbaijan);**

6.80 **Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development, improve livelihoods, and enhance peoples’ well-being (China);**

6.81 **Continue to pursue the human rights development path suitable to its national conditions (China);**

6.82 **Continue implementation of social oriented policies aimed at further improving the well-being of citizens (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea);**

6.83 **Intensify efforts to develop and strengthen the necessary legislative frameworks that address cross-sectoral environmental challenges, including climate change and disaster risk reduction frameworks (Fiji);**

6.84 **Abolish the death penalty (Canada);**

6.85 **Abolish the death penalty (Timor-Leste); (Liechtenstein);**

6.86 **Consider abolishing the death penalty (Fiji);**

6.87 **Take further steps towards abolition of the death penalty (Georgia);**

6.88 **Fully abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Iceland);**

6.89 **Take steps to abolish the death penalty under all circumstances (Norway);**

6.90 **Take into consideration the full abolition of death penalty and the accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Romania);**

6.91 **Establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Switzerland);**

6.92 **Establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition (Chile);**

6.93 **Adopt measures to establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Cyprus);**

6.94 **Establish quickly a moratorium on executions in view of the abolition of the death penalty (France);**

6.95 **Establish, without delay, a 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 (Germany);**

6.96 **Consider introducing a moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to its permanent abolition (Holy See);**

6.97 **Consider introducing a moratorium on executions with a view to fully abolishing the death penalty and signing the Second Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Italy);**

6.98 **Establish an immediate moratorium on the death penalty and abolish it in law and practice (Luxembourg);**

6.99 **Immediately implement a formal moratorium on executions, and take steps towards total abolition of the death penalty (New Zealand);**

6.100 **Immediately commute all death sentences to terms of imprisonment and establish an official moratorium on executions (Slovakia);**

6.101 **Introduce a national moratorium on the use of the death penalty, as a first step towards its abolition (Sweden);**

6.102 **Intensify monitoring of places of detention and ensure impartial and independent investigations into allegations of torture and ill treatment (Switzerland);**

6.103 **Take immediate measures to prevent all torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment; investigate promptly and impartially all allegations of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; and ensure that the perpetrators are held accountable (Canada);**

6.104 **Prevent torture and other cruel inhumane and degrading treatment, by allocating sufficient resources towards training for law enforcement and the judiciary in addressing cases related to torture and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice (Fiji);**

6.105 **Immediately cease brutal repressions against peaceful demonstrators, unconditionally release all political prisoners and engage in a meaningful and inclusive national dialogue (Italy);**

6.106 **Immediately cease the excessive use of force and all other forms of violence against protesters (Liechtenstein);**

6.107 **Immediately cease police violence against peaceful protesters and journalists, including arbitrary detention, deprivation of liberty and torture (Lithuania);**

6.108 **Halt arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances and torture and ill-treatment against human rights defenders, journalists and demonstrators (Luxembourg);**

6.109 **Include a special provision in the Criminal Code to establish liability for all acts of torture in accordance with the Convention against Torture (Malta);**

6.110 **Amend the Criminal Code with an article providing for liability for all kinds of torture and join the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and ensure full accountability (Netherlands);**

6.111 **Treat all detainees in line with the international human rights law, including persons convicted to death penalty (Poland);**

6.112 **Release those arbitrarily detained, and investigate all allegations of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, particularly related to people in detention (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

6.113 **Define “torture” in its Criminal Code as a specific crime in accordance with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and investigate all allegations of widespread practices of torture, ill-treatment and the use of disproportionate force against peaceful protesters, particularly in the aftermath of the 2020 elections (Portugal);**

6.114 **Immediately cease its brutal crackdown against the Belarusian people, including threats to use lethal force against peaceful protesters and employment of severe abuses against detainees, and hold those responsible accountable (United States of America);**

6.115 **Continue contributing to the intensification of global efforts to combat human trafficking, through its initiatives and support to the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

6.116 **Continue training law enforcement officials and other government agencies to identify victims of trafficking, and provide them with assistance and protection in accordance with the law (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

6.117 **Streamline the operations of the national mechanism designed to identify victims of trafficking in persons and refer them for rehabilitation (Zimbabwe);**

6.118 **Continue its efforts in the field of training and human resource development for combating human trafficking (India);**

6.119 **Strengthen its efforts in the fight against trafficking in persons, protecting refugees and migrants, and reducing the number of identified trafficking victims (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

6.120 **Take further measures to fight human trafficking, particularly in women and children (Iraq);**

6.121 **Continue joint work and exchange of experiences at the regional and international levels to enhance efforts and coordination in the field of combating trafficking in persons (United Arab Emirates);**

6.122 **Continue to promote the fight against human trafficking and protection for refugees (Nicaragua);**

6.123 **Adopt further measures in combating trafficking in persons, and ensure the protection of the rights of victims, as well as the rights of migrants (Nigeria);**

6.124 **Continue to strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships on the implementation of the national anti-trafficking legislation (Philippines);**

6.125 **Immediately release all those who have been arbitrarily detained solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, protect human rights defenders and stop all forms of gender-based violence (Austria);**

6.126 **Immediately and without any conditions release all political prisoners and provide them with full rehabilitation (Belgium);**

6.127 **Release immediately and unconditionally all political prisoners who are detained illegally and arbitrarily (Chile);**

6.128 **Unconditionally and immediately release all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience; end the criminal proceedings against them, provide them with full rehabilitation (Czechia);**

6.129 **Release immediately and unconditionally all political prisoners and those arbitrarily detained (Estonia);**

6.130 **Immediately release unlawfully detained persons and enable an independent, transparent and impartial international investigation into all allegations of torture, sexual and gender-based violence, and other ill-treatment of detained persons (Iceland);**

6.131 **Immediately, and unconditionally, release all political prisoners and human rights defenders and refrain from such detentions in the future (Ireland);**

6.132 **Immediately cease the arbitrary detention and forceful oppression of citizens (Japan);**

6.133 **Release all individuals forcefully detained for participation in peaceful protests and on political grounds (Ukraine);**

6.134 **Release immediately and unconditionally all political prisoners, including former presidential candidates, their supporters and those detained during post-electoral protests, and refrain from judicial harassment and reprisals (Lithuania);**

6.135 **Release all persons arrested in the context of the events surrounding the August 2020 presidential elections, drop administrative proceedings or penalties aimed at them, and stop Internet cut-offs (Luxembourg);**

6.136 **Release all political prisoners and provide them with full rehabilitation (Malta);**

6.137 **Ensure the unconditional release of people who have been arbitrarily detained or otherwise unlawfully deprived of their liberty, including members of the opposition, human rights defenders, journalists, media workers, civil society activists and political prisoners, and ensure access to justice (Norway);**

6.138 **Immediately and unconditionally release all political prisoners and ensure their full rehabilitation (Poland);**

6.139 **Immediately release all political prisoners and those detained for participation in election-related protests, and demonstrate a commitment to its international human rights obligations (United States of America);**

6.140 **Guarantee the freedom of assembly and ensure that all those who have been arbitrarily detained are immediately and unconditionally released (Sweden);**

6.141 **Protect the freedoms of expression, assembly and association (Albania);**

6.142 **Fulfil its obligations under international human rights law with regard to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and freedom of opinion and expression (Argentina);**

6.143 **Refrain from intimidation, harassment, arbitrary arrest and disproportionate use of force against people exercising their right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly (Belgium);**

6.144**. Guarantee full respect for freedom of opinion and expression, including online; as well as for the freedom of assembly and association, and also harmonize national legislation in line with international standards in this area (Ecuador);**

6.145 **Take further steps towards enhancing freedom of expression of the media as well as freedom of association and peaceful assembly (India);**

6.146 **Enhance efforts to guarantee freedom of expression and association, as well as protection of the media, journalists and human rights defenders (Italy);**

6.147 **Ensure respect for human rights, including the freedoms of expression online and offline, assembly and association, as well as the freedom of media (North Macedonia);**

6.148 **Ensure that everybody can peacefully exercise the right to freedom of expression and assembly in conformity with the Belarus obligation under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Poland);**

6.149 **Immediately lift restrictions on freedoms of association, peaceful assembly and expression, including on independent media and the Internet (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

6.150 **Amend its Law on Mass Media, putting an end to arbitrary arrests and criminal prosecution in relation to mass media and freedom of speech, as well as ensuring civil society’s and human rights defenders’ freedoms of expression, assembly and association (Portugal);**

6.151 **Fulfill the obligations under the international human rights treaties, related to freedom of expression, freedom of media, free and fair elections, peaceful assembly, protection against reprisals, ill treatment or torture (Romania);**

6.152 **Take immediate action to improve the overall situation on the fundamental freedoms, of the freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and freedom of the press (Slovenia);**

6.153 **Ensure that no restrictions are imposed on the right to freedom of religion and belief (Holy See);**

6.154 **Enable a diversity of opinions in public sphere through free and independent media, and end restrictions on the work of journalists and media, including foreign media, in line with target 16.10 of the Sustainable Development Goals (Switzerland);**

6.155 **Guarantee a favourable environment for the work of journalists and bloggers by reviewing the Law on Mass Media to ensure it does not restrict freedom of expression and media, including by removing the extrajudicial procedure of blocking internet websites (Austria);**

6.156 **Take immediate measures to allow journalists and other media workers to work without fear of detention or undue restriction and improve access to information (Canada);**

6.157 **Respect, protect and promote freedom of expression, as stipulated in article 19, para 2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including by facilitating the accreditation of foreign journalists (Cyprus);**

6.158 **Stop harassing, intimidating and criminalizing all individuals and organizations critical of the government (Czechia);**

6.159 **Protect the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly by ensuring that peaceful demonstrators are not persecuted, intimidated, imprisoned, ill-treated, or tortured (Denmark);**

6.160 **Ensure the safety of all journalists and the freedom of peaceful assembly in line with international standards (Estonia);**

6.161 **Refrain from Internet shutdowns and blocking or filtering of services (Estonia);**

6.162 **Abide by the obligation under international law to respect the rights of journalists, human rights defenders and other individuals to exercise their freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association (Finland);**

6.163 **Remove all obstacles to the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and ensure that journalists, human rights defenders and civil society can exercise their activities freely and safely (France);**

6.164 **End harassment and other reprisals against free media outlets and individual journalists (Greece);**

6.165 **Consider taking advantage of the United Nations Plan of Action for the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity to strengthen the relevant legal framework (Greece);**

6.166 **Strengthen the legislation to improve the press freedom and to ensure safety of journalists, including through further utilization of its bilateral and regional cooperation (Indonesia);**

6.167 **Continue efforts to fulfil the highest attainable standard of human rights of all Belarussian citizens, including in guaranteeing the freedom of speech, and take all necessary steps to provide human rights training to relevant law enforcement officials (Indonesia);**

6.168 **Allow independent journalists and media to conduct their work free from harassment, intimidation and fear, and cease implementing internet shutdowns or restrictions (Ireland);**

6.169 **Ensure freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly and a conducive environment for journalism, notably by decriminalising defamation and amending the Media Act and the Law for Fighting Extremism so that they do not disproportionately limit freedom of expression (Mexico);**

6.170 **Act immediately to provide a safe environment for peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, for the Belarussian people, NGOs and civil society (New Zealand);**

6.171 **Cease repressive tactics against the media, including harassment and imprisonment of journalists, revocation of accreditation, and the blocking of independent media, opposition websites, and internet access (New Zealand);**

6.172 **Take the necessary action to ensure freedom of expression, and in particular to ensure media independence and unfettered access to the internet (Norway);**

6.173 **Bring the legislative framework in line with the recommendations by the OSCE Representative on freedom of media (Poland);**

6.174 **End the repression against protesters, civil society organisations, journalists and human rights defenders who have been trying to exercise their right to freedom of expression and peaceful demonstration for months (Spain);**

6.175 **Guarantee freedom of expression and media freedom by ensuring the safety of journalists and other media workers as well as refraining from interference and censorship (Sweden);**

6.176 **Respect the right of peaceful assembly; release all individuals arbitrarily detained for participation in peaceful protests (Canada);**

6.177 **Ensure the right of people to peaceful assembly and the ability to peacefully protest, without limiting the rights of all participants, including LGBTI people (Iceland);**

6.178 **Strictly adhere to obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including ensuring full and unhindered exercise of freedom to peaceful protests (Ukraine);**

6.179 **Ensure that all people can exercise their right to freedom of peaceful assembly and guarantee upholding of peaceful protests (Malta);**

6.180 **Immediately halt the violent repression of peaceful demonstrations, and respect the legitimate right of the people of Belarus to participate in public life (Norway);**

6.181 **Make further efforts to bring into full compliance with international standards its national legislation and practices which regulate freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association (Republic of Korea);**

6.182 **Fully respect the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and bring legislation in line with Belarus’s international commitments (Slovakia);**

6.183 **Bring legislation on freedom of association into full compliance with its international obligations, including by repealing Art. 23.88 of the Code of Administrative Offences (Denmark);**

6.184 **Consider simplifying the rules that regulate the registration of civil society organisations and political parties (Peru);**

6.185 **Publicly recognize human rights defenders and ensure support for them to carry out their human rights work without harassment and intimidation (Slovakia);**

6.186 **Take measures to guarantee, both in law and in practice, the total independence of the judiciary (Albania);**

6.187 **Continue to strengthen the national judicial system, including through digitalization of its work and increasing avenues for alternative methods of dispute resolution (Sri Lanka);**

6.188 **To enhance the capacities of institutions to deal with serious organized crime, corruption and other challenges related to the rule of law (Indonesia);**

6.189 **Ensure independent investigations into all allegations of human rights violations related to the 2020 presidential elections (Albania);**

6.190 **Effectively and impartially investigate all allegations of torture or ill-treatment of peaceful protestors and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice (Austria);**

6.191 **Ensure independent, transparent, impartial and credible investigations into human rights violations committed following the elections, including the disproportionate use of force against protesters (Costa Rica);**

6.192 **Investigate cases of the use of disproportionate violence by the Police (Cyprus);**

6.193 **Ensure full enjoyment of the freedom of expression, speech, association and peaceful assembly; progress to full, impartial and transparent investigation of all allegations of arbitrary deprivation of life, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, torture and ill-treatment as well as use of excessive force against peaceful demonstrators (Czechia);**

6.194 **Ensure full accountability of members of law enforcement agencies and their commanding officers for all their actions (Czechia);**

6.195 **Allow the conduct of credible, transparent, independent and impartial investigations into all human rights violations and abuses, including in connection to the 2020 presidential elections (Estonia);**

6.196 **Take immediate and effective steps to end and to prevent arbitrary arrests, torture and ill-treatment of peaceful protesters and other individuals, and to bring those responsible to justice (Finland);**

6.197 **Take all measures to combat impunity for acts of torture and sexual violence (France);**

6.198 **Conduct an independent investigation into all allegations of torture and ill-treatment, including an effective and verifiable process for holding to account those who are responsible and to immediately and unconditionally release all political prisoners (Germany);**

6.199 **Investigate all allegations of arbitrary detentions, of enforced disappearances, of disproportionate use of force against peaceful protesters, of torture and ill-treatment in detention against critics, journalists, peaceful protesters, and hold those responsible into account (Greece);**

6.200 **Allow for the conduct of credible, transparent, independent and impartial investigations into human rights violations and abuses committed in the run-up, during and after the 2020 presidential elections (Italy);**

6.201 **Conduct independent investigations into the human rights violations that took place in the aftermath of the 2020 presidential elections, including cases of enforced disappearance and alleged cases of torture (Liechtenstein);**

6.202 **Ensure prompt independent investigation of all allegations of torture and bring perpetrators to account (Lithuania);**

6.203 **Investigate and punish reports of torture and ill-treatment swiftly and comprehensively on the basis of the provisions of the Convention against Torture, including the total prohibition of torture (Mexico);**

6.204 **Duly conduct prompt, impartial and full investigation of the alleged practice of ill-treatment and excessive use of force by law enforcement officials, including the detention of minors, and prosecute the alleged perpetrators (Montenegro);**

6.205 **Undertake effective and impartial investigations into allegations of arbitrary detention and torture of peaceful demonstrators by security forces, and take action to implement its obligations under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (New Zealand);**

6.206 **Cooperate fully with all relevant human rights mechanisms for a comprehensive independent investigation of recent events (North Macedonia);**

6.207 **Ensure that its domestic mechanisms on accountability and rule of law are functioning to facilitate inclusive dialogue and address alleged human rights violations (Philippines);**

6.208 **Bring to justice the individuals responsible of human rights violations, particular in the run-up and the aftermath of the 2020 Presidential elections (Poland);**

6.209 **Conduct independent and transparent investigation into the allegations of serious human rights violations in connection with the recent demonstration (Republic of Korea);**

6.210 **Enable independent, transparent and impartial investigations into all allegations of human rights violations, aimed at ensuring access to justice, redress to victims and accountability for perpetrators (Romania);**

6.211 **Fully investigate all allegations of torture and other ill-treatment, including of those detained during the recent post-election protests, and bring all those responsible to justice (Slovakia);**

6.212 **Organize the holding of free and fair elections, in line with international standards and in the presence of OSCE observers (France);**

6.213 **Reform the Electoral Code and related legislation taking into account the recommendations of the ODIHR Election Observation Mission’s Final Report of 4 March 2020 (Germany);**

6.214 **Reform the electoral code in order to put it in line with international standards of fair and democratic elections (Romania);**

6.215 **Implement all the electoral recommendations from OSCE/ODIHR, as stated in their observation mission reports (Sweden);**

6.216 **Continue to provide support and protection to the family as the fundamental and natural unit of the society (Egypt);**

6.217 **Take further measures to promote and support the institution of the family (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

6.218 **Continue its efforts to implement the Demographic Development Outreach Plan in order to raise public awareness on demographic development issues and advocate for traditional family values (Lao People’s Democratic Republic);**

6.219 **Continue strengthening efforts to ensure providing adequate education and healthcare for everyone (Kazakhstan);**

6.220 **Continue with their effective protection of family rights, social security, right to work, right to education, rights of children and women (Nicaragua);**

6.221 **Continue to make efforts for the provision of social security, primary healthcare and access to preschool education (Pakistan);**

6.222 **Develop a national poverty reduction strategy and budget with a particular focus on children and families in situations of vulnerability (Timor-Leste);**

6.223 **Continue addressing the challenges posed by urban-rural dichotomy and to combat poverty in rural areas (Turkey);**

6.224 **Adopt national strategies to fight poverty, particularly in rural areas (Iraq);**

6.225 **Continue its measures on social services, especially in supporting the low-income families and families in difficult circumstances, and the benefit system for children (Myanmar);**

6.226 **Continue to adopt measures to further improve health services in order to ensure greater accessibility, especially in rural areas (Algeria);**

6.227 **Continue strengthening essential health services, particularly for older persons and other vulnerable groups, especially in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic or other public health emergencies (Cuba);**

6.228 **Improve access to and the quality of health care, including psychiatric care for prisoners, and increase the number of professional medical staff in all detention facilities (Holy See);**

6.229 **Repeal laws and policies on mandatory testing for HIV, policies requiring health-care providers to report certain groups to law enforcement, and criminalization of HIV transmission (Iceland);**

6.230 **Continue to conduct education and awareness-raising programmes on the importance of family planning (Maldives);**

6.231 **Develop and implement School based Mental Health Programmes aimed at youth on how to protect their own mental health and support those around them (Maldives);**

6.232 **Enhance its ongoing measures regarding suicide prevention among young people by strengthening anonymous counselling and hotline services (Myanmar);**

6.233 **Maintain the best practice of providing compulsory education free of charge for all children (Ethiopia);**

6.234 **Continue its conceptual framework for the development of education system, looking ahead to 2030 (Lao People’s Democratic Republic);**

6.235 **Develop programs to improve the rate of school attendance among Roma children (Peru);**

6.236 **Draft and implement a new national action plan to ensure gender equality (Burundi);**

6.237 **Continue to make efforts to provide educational facilities and opportunities to girls and women and also advance equal access to vocational training facilities (India);**

6.238 **Take specific measures to reduce the gender pay gap, and combat the negative stereotypes regarding women in the area of work (Angola);**

6.239 **Take measures to raise public awareness on gender-based discrimination, in consultation with non-governmental organisations (Burkina Faso);**

6.240 **Regularly cover in the national media the issue of gender equality (Burundi);**

6.241 **Conduct awareness raising campaigns and educational events aimed at eradicating sexist stereotypes (Burundi);**

6.242 **Adopt the necessary legal measures and reforms to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination, as well as violence against women, in particular domestic and sexual violence (Ecuador);**

6.243 **Allocate sufficient resources towards training for law enforcement and the judiciary in addressing cases related to violence against women (Fiji);**

6.244 **Redouble efforts in conducting awareness-raising and training for duty bearers towards preventing and addressing gender-based violence and ensuring victims' access to appropriate services (Philippines);**

6.245 **Adopt a comprehensive law criminalizing all forms of violence against women, particularly domestic and sexual violence (Brazil);**

6.246 **Develop specific legislation to combat domestic violence, including by establishing complaints mechanisms, and strengthening the role of civil society in laws, policies, programs and services to prevent and protect against domestic violence (Costa Rica);**

6.247 **Consider undertaking the necessary reforms to criminalise violence against women, in particular domestic and sexual violence (Peru);**

6.248 **Adopt effective legislation criminalizing violence against women, namely domestic and sexual violence (Portugal);**

6.249 **Continue taking steps to combat violence against women including through legislative reforms (Malaysia);**

6.250 **Adopt legislation specifically criminalizing violence against women, particularly domestic and sexual violence (Angola);**

6.251 **Develop legal framework aimed at combating domestic and gender-based violence (Croatia);**

6.252 **To launch awareness-raising campaigns to fight domestic violence and to raise further awareness about the consequences of it (Kuwait);**

6.253 **Consider developing a comprehensive strategy for preventing and combating all forms of violence against children and put in place robust measures to effectively implement the National Plan of Action to advance rights of children (Malaysia);**

6.254 **Ensure that poverty and disability are not used as justifications for removing children from parental care (Brazil);**

6.255 **Review the juvenile justice system and introduce a juvenile criminal law with a view to developing alternatives to detention and reducing prison sentences for offenders under 18 years of age (Germany);**

6.256 **Reform the juvenile justice system to ensure that the rights of children and the best interests of the child are respected in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Spain);**

6.257 **Strengthen access to education for children with disabilities (Afghanistan);**

6.258 **Pursue the efforts to strengthen the rights of persons with disabilities and guarantee equal opportunities in access to education for children with disabilities (Algeria);**

6.259 **Continue protecting the rights of persons with disabilities (Azerbaijan);**

6.260 **Intensify its follow up on the implementation of the national plan of action with regards to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Ethiopia);**

6.261 **Continue its efforts to strengthen the rights of persons with disabilities, especially their access to higher education (Myanmar);**

6.262 **Take further steps to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure their representation and meaningful participation in decision-making processes (Philippines);**

6.263 **Continue its ongoing efforts to build a more inclusive society, including by developing inclusive education policies for children with disabilities and by undertaking further awareness-raising activities at the local-level on the key aspects of its disability policies (Singapore);**

6.264 **Take additional steps to mitigate the potential economic exclusion and social isolation of persons with disabilities, including children, considering the COVID-19 pandemic (Singapore);**

6.265 **Enact and implement the envisaged bill on the rights and social inclusion of persons with disabilities (Sri Lanka);**

6.266 **Adopt measures to protect refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers from torture and ensure the protection of children in migration (Afghanistan).**

**7.** **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 Belarus was headed by H.E. Mr. Yury Ambrazevich, Permanent Representative of Belarus to UNOG, and composed of the following members:

* Mr. Valery Kalinkovich, First Deputy Head of the Supreme Court;
* Mr. Dzmitry Hara, Deputy Prosecutor-General;
* Ms. Irina Velichko, Head, Main Department of Multilateral Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
* Ms. Ekaterina Mozgovaya, Attaché, Main Department of Multilateral Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
* Mr. Vadim Pisarevich, Deputy Permanent Representative of Belarus to UNOG;
* Mr. Andrei Taranda, Counsellor, Permanent Mission in Geneva;
* Ms. Tatsiana Gerasimova, Head, Division for International Legal Activity, Supreme Court;
* Mr. Andrei Maltsau, Head, Department for Supervision of compliance with legal regulations and Legality of Legal Acts, General Prosecutor’s Office;
* Ms. Alena Dmukhaila, Secretary, Central Election Commission;
* Mr. Mikhail Vavulo, Head, International Legal Department, Investigative Committee;
* Mr. Raman Melnik, Head, Main Department of the Defence of the Rule of Law and Prevention, Ministry of Interior;
* Mr. Uladzislau Mandryk, Head, Department of Organization of the Executive process, Department of Penal Correction, Ministry of Interior;
* Mr. Aleh Silvestrovich, Head, Main Department for Drug Control and Combating Trafficking in Persons of the Criminal Police, Ministry of Interior;
* Ms. Viktoria Meleshko, Head, Legal Support and Supervision of Compliance with the Legislation, Ministry of Information;
* Ms. Elena Kirichenko, Head, Department for Non-Profit Organizations, Ministry of Justice;
* Ms. Alena Radabolskaya, Deputy Head, Department of Advocacy and Licensing of Legal Activities, Ministry of Justice;
* Mr. Eduard Tamilchyk, Head, Main Department of Socially Educational Work and Youth Policy, Ministry of Education;
* Ms. Irina Karzhova, Deputy Head, Main Department of General Secondary, Pre-school and Special Education, Ministry of Education;
* Ms. Sviatlana Sysoi, Chief Specialist, Main Department of General Secondary, Preschool and Special Education, Ministry of Education;
* Ms. Alena Halauniova, Deputy Head, Department of Social, Educational and Ideological Work, Main Department of Educational Work and Youth Policy, Ministry of Education;
* Ms. Alena Lipa, Deputy Head, Main Department of Vocational Education, Ministry of Education;
* Ms. Valentina Maslovskaya, Head, Main Legal Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection;
* Ms. Yuliya Fabrykava, Deputy Head, Department for Disabled People, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection;
* Mr. Aleh Takun, Head, Employment Policy Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection;
* Mr. Igor Golubitsky, Head, Department of Constitutional and International Law, [National Centre of Legislation and Legal Research](http://center.gov.by/?lang=en);
* Ms. Tatsiana Kananchuk, Head, Main Department of Environmental Policy, International Cooperation and Science, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection;
* Ms. Larissa Lukina, Deputy Head, Main Department of Environmental Policy, International Cooperation and Science, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection.

1. \* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)