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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Solomon Islands

* 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-eighth session from 3 to 14 May 2021. The review of Solomon Islands was held at the 11th meeting, on 10 May 2021. The delegation of Solomon Islands was headed by Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Collin Beck. At its 17th meeting, held on 14 May 2021, the Working Group adopted the report on Solomon Islands.
2. On 12 January 2021, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Solomon Islands: Bahrain, Brazil and Burkina Faso.
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 Solomon Islands:
 - (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 Canada, Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Solomon Islands 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. Solomon Islands reaffirmed its commitment to the spirit and purpose of the universal periodic review process. Solomon Islands participated in the universal periodic review cycles in 2011 and 2016. As a democratic State, it supported the Human Rights Council's efforts to promote respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
6. Solomon Islands stated that it remained committed to participating in all relevant multilateral conventions. Solomon Islands was committed to building internal structures and capacity and to equipping national authorities to promote and translate Conventions and Protocol obligations domestically.
7. Solomon Islands is a small island developing State and a least developed country that is due to graduate from its least developed country status in January 2024. The unique and special situation of Solomon Islands has its particular vulnerabilities. These include remoteness of the country from external markets; high energy, transportation and communication costs; vulnerability to environment degradation; the growing impact of climate change; and susceptibility to economic shocks.
8. The unity and solidarity of the country remained a national priority as the country was going through its nation-building process. Investment in national infrastructure projects that bound together and connected its scattered, culturally diverse population was a priority.
9. Solomon Islands remained a Christian country and defined marriage in the traditional sense, between a male and female. Accordingly, the delegation urged countries that had

¹ A/HRC/WG.6/38/SLB/1.

² A/HRC/WG.6/38/SLB/2.

³ A/HRC/WG.6/38/SLB/3.

raised questions relating to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons to refer to General Assembly resolution 60/251, and to take into consideration the cultural and religious background of States.

10. Solomon Islands is a State party to four of nine human rights conventions, namely the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

11. With regard to the sexual exploitation of children, child trafficking and child marriage, the Penal Code (Amendment) (Sexual Offences) Act 2016 criminalized all forms of sexual violence, including forced marriage and child prostitution.

12. Although Solomon Islands had not ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, it had adopted relevant legislation, established a national security strategy and remained committed to working with all enforcement agencies, including the International Criminal Police Organization, in tackling transnational organized crime. Regional frameworks were also in place to deal with transnational crime and cooperation among Pacific States.

13. On the question of disability, there was a draft national disability-inclusive development policy for 2020–2024. As the country had limited special schools for children with disabilities, the goal was to have regular schools equipped to integrate children with disabilities.

14. The lack of ambitious, global action under the Paris Agreement threatens all rights and fundamental freedoms. Solomon Islands called upon the international community to take a serious look at the plight of climate refugees and to take greater climate action that puts the planet on a 1.5-degree pathway.

15. Solomon Islands stated that the establishment of a national human rights institution remained on the agenda.

16. As for women in leadership positions, at least 10 per cent of such posts were reserved for women under the Parties Political Integrity Act (2014). Furthermore, the Ministry of Public Service had a mentoring programme for women in leadership that helped to ensure equal opportunities for men and women in public service.

17. As a post-conflict country, Solomon Islands had set up a ministry to deal with the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court was not an immediate priority. As indicated in the national report, court infrastructures were being established in the provinces in an effort to increase people's access to justice.

18. Solomon Islands took note of the request to consider signing the Arms Trade Treaty. Unexploded ordnances remained an issue, and World War II ammunition continued to claim lives in the country. It highlighted that a clean-up of such weapons was needed.

19. Solomon Islands highlighted that press freedom was protected by the Constitution. Legislation to have mobile users register their SIM cards is before the Parliament. Moreover, work towards getting cyberlegislation in place is actively being pursued.

20. On gender, there was a national strategy to improve the economic status of women, and 116 financial savings clubs had been founded. In addition, the number of women participating in the labour mobility scheme had increased.

21. As for combating gender-based violence, the Family Protection Act (2014), the Penal Code (Amendment) (Sexual Offences) Act (2016) and the Child and Family Welfare Act (2017) all contained key provisions that were aimed at protecting women and children against violence. The SAFENET referral network had been set up in 2013 to provide support to victims of gender-based violence. Plans called for the service, which was available in four provinces, to be made available in the remaining five provinces in 2021.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

22. During the interactive dialogue, 59 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.
23. Georgia commended Solomon Islands for key legislative developments since its previous universal periodic review, including the acts on anti-corruption and on child and family welfare, the submission of its periodic reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and the establishment of the Anti-Human Trafficking Advisory Committee.
24. Germany welcomed the establishment of the Anti-Human Trafficking Advisory Committee while expressing concerns regarding the protection of children, in particular children with disabilities.
25. Iceland was encouraged by actions such as the SAFENET network, operated by government and non-government partners to provide services to those affected by gender-based violence.
26. India commended Solomon Islands for efforts to promote and protect human rights since its second universal periodic review cycle. It welcomed the establishment of the Anti-Human Trafficking Advisory Committee and the enactment of the Whistle-blowers Protection Act (2018). It also noted with appreciation the adoption of the national health strategic plan for 2016–2020.
27. Indonesia noted the progress made by Solomon Islands since its last review. It remained committed to capacity-building and development cooperation with Solomon Islands, especially in the areas of democracy, human rights advancement, women's empowerment and child protection.
28. Iraq appreciated the efforts undertaken by Solomon Islands for the preparation of its national report. It welcomed the policies, plans and legislation adopted since the previous universal periodic review cycle, including the anti-corruption law of 2018, which would enable the country to combat corruption and preserve human rights.
29. Ireland acknowledged efforts to advance human rights domestically and commended Solomon Islands for the progress made since the previous universal periodic review cycle. It welcomed the introduction of several policies aimed at improving the lives of women, girls and young people, including the national policy to eliminate violence against women and girls, the national youth policy, and the national gender equality and women's development policy. It further encouraged Solomon Islands to continue that progress by acceding to the remaining core international human rights treaties and the optional protocols thereto.
30. Israel acknowledged the many challenges faced by Solomon Islands as a consequence of climate change. Israel commended Solomon Islands for the reform of the Penal Code with provisions to criminalize all forms of sexual violence. In line with its recommendation from the previous review cycle, Israel commended Solomon Islands for the increase of women in the paid work force.
31. Italy commended Solomon Islands for its valuable participation in the universal periodic review mechanism. It appreciated the efforts made for the promotion of gender equality, in particular the adoption of the national gender equality and women's development policy for 2016–2020. It also welcomed the approval in 2016 of the implementing regulations of the Family Protection Act (2014), as recommended in the previous universal periodic review cycle, to fight against domestic violence, assist survivors and ensure related services.
32. Japan greatly appreciated the positive steps taken by Solomon Islands to protect and promote the rights of children, including the passing of the Immigration Act (2012) and Penal Code Amendment Act (2016) to protect them from sexual exploitation. Japan stressed that it was aware of the challenges facing Solomon Islands.
33. Malawi warmly welcomed the delegation of Solomon Islands and offered its appreciation for the comprehensive report. It commended Solomon Islands for the progress made so far in implementing the recommendations accepted during the previous review cycle.

34. Malaysia encouraged Solomon Islands to continue its engagement with Human Rights Council mechanisms, particularly the universal periodic review, and to take targeted and inclusive measures to implement accepted recommendations. It expressed the hope that the Government would avail itself to technical cooperation and capacity-building to further advance the human rights of its people.

35. Maldives welcomed the progress made to advance human rights domestically and commended the Government for incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals into the national development strategy for 2016–2035. It also congratulated the Government for submitting in 2020 its first voluntary national review on the status and progress of its implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

36. The Marshall Islands welcomed the efforts made by Solomon Islands to align its national policy with the principles outlined in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including in the national disability-inclusive development policy and the national gender equality and women’s development policy.

37. Mauritius applauded Solomon Islands for having developed a mitigation and adaption policy to deal with climate change and rising sea levels and underlined the limited resources the country had, especially bearing in mind the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its effects.

38. Mexico welcomed the creation of the advisory committee to combat human trafficking and the adoption of the anti-corruption law.

39. Montenegro positively considered the adoption of some strategic documents such as the Child and Family Welfare Act (2017), the national development strategy for 2016–2035 and the national youth policy for 2017–2030. Montenegro encouraged the Government to seek assistance from the United Nations, including OHCHR, to complete the establishment of a national human rights institution compliant with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) without further delay. Montenegro urged the Government to undertake the necessary measures to eliminate the sexual abuse of children, criminalize the sale of young girls and bring perpetrators to justice.

40. Morocco noted the positive steps taken since the last review.

41. Nepal appreciated the launching of the road map for the national non-communicable disease policy for 2019–2023 and commended Solomon Islands for the initiation of the “healthy village” project. It noted the national development strategy for 2016–2035 and encouraged Solomon Islands to take effective measures to achieve gender equality in decision-making and leadership positions.

42. The Netherlands commended Solomon Islands for the steps taken to promote gender equality such as the national gender equality and women’s development policy for 2016–2020. However, it expressed concerns about physical and sexual violence, discrimination and gender inequalities.

43. New Zealand acknowledged the progress made to address violence against women and children and encouraged continued momentum in that area, particularly as rates of violence remained high. It also commended Solomon Islands for its commitment to addressing disability issues.

44. The Niger welcomed the progress made in implementing the 89 recommendations accepted in 2016 and encouraged Solomon Islands to complete the initiatives under way to effectively implement the recommendations not yet implemented.

45. Pakistan commended Solomon Islands for advancing the promotion and protection of human rights, including strengthening the legislative framework, promoting gender equality, ensuring access to education and investing in the health-care system. It also noted the national development strategy that recognized the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had impeded socioeconomic progress.

46. Paraguay encouraged Solomon Islands to continue collaboration with other countries and international organizations to achieve the full implementation of the recommendations from the previous review cycles. Paraguay expressed concern about an increased risk to the health of the population, in particular the most vulnerable sectors, owing to climate change and the unprecedented sea-level rise.

47. The Philippines noted efforts to further advance the protection of human rights, especially those of vulnerable groups. It welcomed the establishment of the Anti-Human Trafficking Advisory Committee, the training of law enforcement officials and the strengthening of legislation to combat trafficking in persons.

48. Portugal welcomed efforts to promote youth rights and gender equality through the implementation of the national youth policy for 2017–2030 and the national gender equality and women’s development policy for 2016–2020.

49. Senegal noted the Anti-Human Trafficking Advisory Committee and the adoption of an anti-corruption law aimed at combating acts of corruption committed by civil servants. It also welcomed efforts to implement legislative reforms aimed at harmonizing national laws with international human rights instruments.

50. Serbia welcomed the adoption of anti-corruption laws and the establishment of an independent anti-corruption commission. It encouraged Solomon Islands to continue close collaboration with United Nations human rights mechanisms for the benefit of all its citizens.

51. Sierra Leone commended Solomon Islands for the strides taken in the promotion of human rights since its previous review cycle, in 2016, including the reform of the Penal Code with a provision criminalizing all forms of sexual violence, the enactment of the Child and Welfare Act (2017) and policies aimed at promoting gender equality. It noted the many environmental challenges faced by Solomon Islands as a small island developing State, encouraging Solomon Islands to continue to work with regional and international partners to seek viable solutions to those challenges.

52. Slovenia commended Solomon Islands for its commitment to mitigating climate change while remaining concerned by extensive logging activities in the recent years that had resulted in serious impacts on human rights and the environment, not only for Solomon Islands but also for the global efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change. It noted that human rights issues in that context had not been so much driven by a lack of laws or policies, but more importantly by a lack of monitoring and enforcement.

53. With regard to development, Solomon Islands approached the right to development through the lens of its national development strategy for 2016–2035. Underpinning that tool was the national vision of improving the social and economic livelihoods of all Solomon Islanders. The national development strategy was also aligned with the Samoa Pathway and Istanbul Programme of Action in terms of sustainable development.

54. Despite economic gains from 2015 to 2018, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the enforcement of containment measures had negatively impacted the country’s economy and hampered implementation of development initiatives. In an effort to cushion the economic impact of the pandemic, the Government had introduced the redirection policy. Priorities included the reallocation of resources to the productive sector and the establishment of appropriate structural institutional arrangements to facilitate and sustain a growth path for the economy in partnership with the private sector. In terms of infrastructure development, the Government and its development partners were engaged in several major transformational programmes or projects covering, inter alia, airports, the mining sector, energy, telecommunications, fisheries and agriculture.

55. Climate change is a pressing global issue that severely impacts the daily lives of Solomon Islanders, especially those living on low-lying islands. Sea level rise, water intrusion, king tides and cyclones had led to relocation, especially from low-lying islands to higher ones. The country continued to lose islands, with women being disempowered as land was swallowed up by the sea. That phenomenon had an impact on the country’s diverse culture: as people relocated, they became disconnected from the traditional crops and relied on imported food, leading to the onset of non-communicable diseases, the leading killer in Solomon Islands. Scientists warned that by 2050, the migratory patterns of tuna – a primary

commodity, both for income and consumption – would move eastward, resulting in the reduction of tuna stocks in the country's waters. That in turn would lead to poverty, unless more was done to build the resilience of the population. The Government had strengthened its efforts to address climate change through the formulation and implementation of the national climate change policy. In addition, it would be submitting its national determined contributions in the coming weeks.

56. Solomon Islands had various legal frameworks to address the issue of slavery and trafficking. In addition, the relevant authorities had been inspecting and monitoring the logging and fishing industries to preclude any trafficking and exploitation of women and girls. Moreover, the country was now in the preparatory stage of accession to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the authorities were conducting a nationwide consultation workshop on issues related to trafficking in persons.

57. With regard to the right to effective remedy, an access to justice survey had been conducted recently in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme. Based on the findings, the United Nations Development Programme, with the support of the Government of Australia and in conjunction with the Public Solicitor's Office, had embarked upon the Access to Justice programme, with the aim of taking justice services to Solomon Islanders in rural areas. The Access to Justice programme was being piloted in four rural provinces, and there were plans to extend the programme beyond the provincial centres.

58. As for participation in public affairs and the right to vote, policies were in place for women to participate in decision-making, and training was provided to empower women in leadership. The Political Party Integrity Act (2014) specified that at least 10 per cent of seats within the parties were reserved for women candidates. At present, there were four women members of the national Parliament, two of whom were Cabinet Ministers.

59. Spain appreciated the establishment of the Anti-Human Trafficking Advisory Committee, and the training of security forces on that subject.

60. The Sudan appreciated the serious steps taken in establishing a national mechanism to combat corruption.

61. Thailand appreciated efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, particularly through the national gender equality and women's development policy for 2016–2020. It was encouraged by an increasing number of women contested as a member of political parties, expressing further hope that Solomon Islands would continue to support women's participation in the government's decision-making positions.

62. Timor-Leste commended Solomon Islands for adopting the Anti-Corruption Act (2018), encouraging the establishment of an independent commission for anti-corruption. It also noted with appreciation the inclusion of a national human rights institution in the draft Federal Constitution and looked forward to its establishment.

63. Ukraine positively noted the steps taken to promote and protect human rights, in particular the establishment of the Anti-Human Trafficking Advisory Committee.

64. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the steps taken to promote and protect human rights, such as improved access to justice and increased awareness of the provisions of the Family Protection Act (2014). It urged the Government to improve implementation of that legislation by strengthening police and prosecutorial processes, in order to increase conviction rates. It also urged the Government to protect media freedom by ensuring that all legislation, including legislation governing emergency situations, enshrined the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

65. The United States of America commended Solomon Islands for its free and fair national elections in 2019, and for taking steps to meet its international human rights obligations and commitments. However, it remained concerned by the continued physical and sexual violence against women, and the lack of protection for the equal rights of women across the economic and political sectors of society.

66. Uruguay acknowledged the efforts made by Solomon Islands in the area of human rights and welcomed the ongoing discussions for the establishment of an independent national human rights institution and a national human rights action plan.

67. Vanuatu noted positive steps by Solomon Islands to incorporate in its legislative framework human rights principles embodied in international human rights treaties. It also encouraged the Government to put in place efforts to protect the human rights of its people, in particular those of children, women and persons with disabilities.

68. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela commended Solomon Islands for efforts to implement the accepted recommendations of the previous review cycles, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects of climate change. It welcomed the steps taken in implementing the national policy on disability, and its progress towards the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It also appreciated the gender equality and social inclusion policy aimed at increasing the number of women in leadership and decision-making positions, promoting gender equality in all areas. It further positively noted the bill to make education compulsory at the childhood, primary and secondary levels, and the “healthy village” project to address preventable diseases, improve access to drinking water and sanitation, and promote healthy nutrition for people in rural villages.

69. Argentina welcomed the extension by Solomon Islands of a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders.

70. Armenia welcomed the measures undertaken to make education compulsory for early childhood, primary and secondary education, and the adoption of a draft national policy on disability and a draft national disability-inclusive development policy. It noted the Child and Family Welfare Act (2017), aimed at protecting children from prostitution, pornography, early or forced marriage, and hard labour.

71. Australia commended Solomon Islands for its efforts to promote and protect human rights, including combating domestic violence through adoption of the Family Protection Act (2014).

72. Bahamas congratulated Solomon Islands for submitting in 2020 its first voluntary national review on the status and progress of its implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Bahamas acknowledged the adoption of a public service transformation strategy to sensitize gender in governance and gender equality.

73. Barbados recognized the challenges confronting Solomon Islands, notably the climate crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. It stated that those challenges threatened to slow down, or even reverse, progress made in the area of human rights on behalf of individuals, households and communities throughout the country.

74. Botswana noted that some of the reports of Solomon Islands to human rights mechanisms and bodies were overdue. It called upon Solomon Islands to expedite the implementation of obligations under treaty bodies to which it is a party. It expressed concern about reports of high prevalence of child abuse.

75. Brazil encouraged Solomon Islands to implement measures to decentralize justice administration. It also emphasized the importance of significant representation of women in political parties and elected offices. It further called upon Solomon Islands to adopt comprehensive measures for the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly women and children.

76. Burkina Faso noted the progress made, in particular the measures taken to strengthen the legislative framework for children’s rights. It remained concerned about the many challenges that persisted regarding respect for, and protection and implementation of, human rights.

77. Canada commended Solomon Islands for the adoption of the Child and Family Welfare Act (2017), which aimed to help children in dangerous or abusive work. It urged the Government to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility and ensure that legal protection for minors is extended to all children.

78. Chile regretted the delay in the publication of the national report of Solomon Islands for the third cycle of the universal periodic review.

79. China appreciated the national development strategy for 2016–2035, aimed at achieving sustained and inclusive economic growth, effectively addressing climate change, developing education and health, actively combating the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, combating domestic violence, and safeguarding the rights of vulnerable groups, such as women, children and persons with disabilities.
80. Côte d’Ivoire congratulated Solomon Islands for the progress made in the field of human rights, encouraging it to continue its efforts to better promote and protect human rights.
81. Cuba recognized efforts to confront and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change, including in the area of disaster risk reduction. It also highlighted the focus of Solomon Islands on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in a low-carbon economy.
82. Denmark noted the steps taken towards combating corporal punishment in schools, while remaining concerned about its continued practice. It stated that the Convention against Torture Initiative stood ready to explore avenues to assist Solomon Islands in advancing on the issue, if deemed helpful.
83. Dominican Republic appreciated the presentation of the national report. It recognized the efforts made by Solomon Islands to combat climate change.
84. Estonia commended Solomon Islands for introducing the national youth policy for 2017–2030, the national gender equality and women’s development policy for 2016–2020 and the Child and Family Welfare Act (2017) in line with previous universal periodic review recommendations. It stated that some child rights-related laws needed to be harmonized with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and encouraged Solomon Islands to take further steps towards implementation of relevant measures to protect women and children from abuse and trafficking in persons.
85. Fiji welcomed the achievements made in the implementation of the recommendations from its previous universal periodic review cycle. It commended Solomon Islands for measures to combat trafficking in persons, including the establishment of criminal liability for internal trafficking in persons.
86. Finland highly appreciated the engagement of Solomon Islands in the universal periodic review process.
87. France appreciated the presentation of the national report.
88. In the area of children’s rights and well-being, the Government continued to build the capacity of social welfare officers and other service providers to ensure a timely, effective and coordinated response to address the needs of both children who had experienced violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation and their families.
89. With regard to birth registration, there had been an improvement, as 88 per cent of children under five years old were now registered. However, urban areas were more likely to have access to birth certificates.
90. Solomon Islands stated that the National Advisory and Action Committee on Children remained the central mechanism for children that oversaw the implementation and monitoring of the Convention on the Right of the Child. The Committee also ensured that development and implementation of the national children policy and the plan of action was led by the Government in partnership with non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, civil society organizations and United Nations agencies, which conducted awareness-raising activities and programmes on children’s rights at the national, provincial and community levels.
91. As for the challenges of implementation, the COVID-19 pandemic had wrought great havoc on the people, both socially and economically. It had resulted in a serious economic downturn. Economic growth for 2020 had been affected, and the outlook for 2021, and quite possibly for the next few years, was predicted to remain along the same negative trajectory. The resulting reduction in governmental revenue meant a reduction in the resources the Government had at its disposal to fulfil its human rights obligations. The Government had embarked on a redirection policy aimed at cushioning negative economic impacts and

focusing on three key areas: keeping the economy afloat; boosting the productive sector; and keeping COVID-19 out of the country. Notwithstanding, without sustained efforts by development partners on a path of economic recovery, the pandemic could result in the country's economy potentially coming to a standstill in the not too distant future.

92. As a "large ocean, small island State" facing geographically related constraints, Solomon Islands was subjected to social and economic vulnerabilities. It continued to call for a halt to practices that encouraged overfishing in its waters, including harmful fisheries subsidies by distant nations. Moreover, pollution was putting the entire ecosystem at risk, in addition to affecting the livelihoods and economic opportunities of Solomon Islanders who depended on them.

93. Overall, the best-known consequences of climate change all had an impact on Solomon Islands: timber overexploitation increased the risk of flooding for local communities and exposed cleared land and villages to stronger winds, endangering agriculture and putting settled areas at greater risk during storms. Moreover, five uninhabited islands had disappeared owing to rising sea levels, and large swathes of land in six inhabited islands had been inundated. Communities residing on low-lying atolls continued to be under threat of sinking from rising sea levels. Thus, Solomon Islanders were facing a threat to the very right to survive.

94. The scattered islands that made up the country, along with its geographical terrain, made development and governance a costly undertaking. What was more, high transportation and communication costs made data collection very difficult. The availability of verifiable, reliable data remained a challenge, and Solomon Islands would continue to seek assistance from development partners in that regard.

95. Concerning partnerships, as outlined in the national report, it was important to begin moving away from assistance that tended to focus on employing consultants and organizing workshops. It was instead necessary to begin to look at transformational projects that were sustainable in the long term and that contributed to economic empowerment, particularly for such vulnerable groups as women, young people, children and persons with disabilities.

96. In terms of cooperation with human rights treaty bodies, Solomon Islands upheld the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as inherent components of its democracy. Solomon Islands had ratified and acceded to four of the nine core human rights treaties. In addition, it was a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. National legislation, policy frameworks and programmes were in place to promote, protect and incorporate the principles of those human rights treaties. Various policy frameworks and strategies were formulated in that regard, such as the national children's policy, the national policy on gender equality and women's development, the national policy on the elimination of violence against women and girls, the national youth policy and the national disability-inclusive development policy. Those legislative instruments and policies bore witness to the country's commitment to uphold and protect the rights of its people.

97. The National Advisory Committee on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the National Advisory and Action Committee on Children, together with support from non-governmental organizations, civil society and United Nations agencies, had been tasked with overseeing relevant laws and policies as part of the State's commitment towards implementing the principles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The initiatives included cooperation, advocacy, training, education and the establishment of the SAFENET network, which provided referrals both for children and victims of gender-based violence.

98. The establishment of a national human rights institution is currently being explored. The Government continued to strengthen the work of its established integrity institutions, including the Office of the Ombudsman, the Leadership Code Commission and the Anti-Corruption Commission. Those institutions were supported by law to combat human rights violations, maladministration and corruption.

99. Solomon Islands emphasized that it was committed to honouring its human rights reporting obligations. A concept paper on a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up had been completed in 2019, for the purposes of implementing, reporting on and tracking human rights, the Sustainable Development Goals and other national development priorities. However, given the limited technical resources and competing national priorities, meeting reporting obligations remained a challenge.

100. Solomon Islands had progressed in implementing, promoting and protecting human rights by mainstreaming the international human rights treaty norms in accordance with its legislative and policy frameworks. As a post-conflict country, it had made significant strides in the enjoyment of access to basic services such as health, education and justice. Consequently, citizens had been able to pursue their freedom in a peaceful and stable environment.

101. Solomon Islands thanked delegations for their interventions on its national report for the universal periodic review. The delegation took note of the comments, recommendations and observations made by various delegations and made a number of clarifications.

102. Solomon Islands clarified that the Constitution did not allow for the death penalty. Corporal punishment was prohibited. Solomon Islands reaffirmed that sex education was part of its national education curriculum.

103. Solomon Islands looked forward to engaging with the Human Rights Council to progress on some of the issues raised during the review.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

104.1 **Consider ratifying the main international conventions on human rights starting from the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocols (Italy);**

104.2 **Consider the possibility of ratifying those international human rights instruments such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, and the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Dominican Republic);**

104.3 **Ratify the main international human rights treaties that are still pending to advance on Sustainable Development Goals 5, 11, 13 and 16 (Paraguay);**

104.4 **Ratify the core human rights instruments including the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, 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 (Sierra Leone);**

104.5 **Ratify, as priority, core international human rights instruments including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 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);**

104.6 **Ratify more human rights instruments, especially the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as previously recommended (Israel);**

104.7 **Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Iraq);**

104.8 **Sign and ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Niger);**

- 104.9 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Bahamas) (Finland) (France) (Germany) (Japan) (Malawi) (Mauritius) (Ukraine) (Vanuatu);**
- 104.10 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Finland) (France) (Ukraine);**
- 104.11 **Sign and ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Niger);**
- 104.12 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Argentina) (Bahamas) (Denmark) (Finland) (Germany) (Japan) (Malawi) (Morocco);**
- 104.13 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark) (Finland);**
- 104.14 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina) (France) (Japan);**
- 104.15 **Consider the ratification of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and develop and adopt a policy on child labour and the hazardous labour list (Morocco);**
- 104.16 **Protect children's rights by ratifying the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and bringing national legislation in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular the Marriage Act, Labor Act, Education Act and the Penal Code, and improve access to schools and regulate school fees (Germany);**
- 104.17 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Burkina Faso)/Ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 104.18 **Ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other core human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party (Estonia);**
- 104.19 **Ratify the first and second Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and address gaps in the Penal Code which leave children vulnerable to sexual exploitation (Australia);**
- 104.20 **Take further steps towards the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Georgia)/Expedite the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Maldives);**
- 104.21 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Armenia) (Australia) (Bahamas) (Burkina Faso) (Japan) (Senegal) (Ukraine) (Vanuatu);**
- 104.22 **Ratify and implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (New Zealand);**
- 104.23 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and develop a national policy for the benefit of persons with disabilities (Germany);**
- 104.24 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, as well as the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Malawi);**
- 104.25 **Sign and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Niger);**
- 104.26 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Morocco);**

- 104.27 **Accede to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);**
- 104.28 **Consider ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Sierra Leone);**
- 104.29 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Estonia);**
- 104.30 **Ratify the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) before the next review (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)/Ratify the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) of the International Labour Organization (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 104.31 **Ratify the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, which complements the Convention (Paraguay);**
- 104.32 **Adopt an open, merit-based approach to selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 104.33 **Consider submitting its overdue reports to the relevant treaty bodies (Sierra Leone);**
- 104.34 **Redouble efforts to implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child of 2018, encouraging the harmonization of national legislation with the Convention, as well as strengthening the role of the Committee on Children (Uruguay);**
- 104.35 **Issue an open invitation to all Human Rights Council special procedures (Ukraine);**
- 104.36 **Establish a permanent national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up of recommendations on human rights, through technical assistance and cooperation for this purpose within the framework of Sustainable Development Goals 16 and 17 (Paraguay);**
- 104.37 **Implement the recommendation that Solomon Islands agreed to during the previous universal periodic review cycle to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Sudan);**
- 104.38 **Request technical support from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to advance in the ratification of the main international human rights instruments to which the country is not yet a party, as well as to ensure the incorporation into its national legal system of its obligations on ratified human rights treaties (Uruguay);**
- 104.39 **Seek required technical assistance to meet its various human rights obligations (Sierra Leone);**
- 104.40 **Continue its efforts to reform the Penal Code (Bahamas);**
- 104.41 **Consider establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (India);**
- 104.42 **Continue efforts to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Iraq)/Continue to take concrete steps to establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);**
- 104.43 **Take concrete steps to establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Finland)/Take necessary steps to establish a national human rights institution that is compliant with the Paris Principles (Malawi)/Expedite and take concrete steps to establish a national human rights institution that is in compliance with the Paris Principles (Malaysia);**

104.44 Establish an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Ukraine)/Establish an independent national human rights institution with “A” status, in conformity with the Paris Principles, before the next review (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)/Create a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Burkina Faso);

104.45 Provide higher budget and financial resources to State institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights so that they can carry out their mission and meet their objectives within the framework of Sustainable Development Goals 1.4, 4.3, 4.6 and 5 (Paraguay);

104.46 Continue and intensify nationwide awareness-raising programmes on human rights and the enjoyment of human rights, including programmes specifically targeting women, youth and children (Fiji);

104.47 Adopt a comprehensive definition of the prohibition of discrimination in line with international human rights standards (Spain);

104.48 Consider progressive anti-discrimination law reforms to guarantee comprehensive protection against discrimination in accordance with international human rights law, norms and standards (Fiji);

104.49 Give priority to the implementation of measures to put an end to all forms of discrimination against children, in particular ensuring that girls and boys have equal access to education, as well as guaranteeing access to basic services for all children who live in rural areas, and for children with disabilities (Uruguay);

104.50 Take concrete measures to tackle stigma and discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their families and to ensure them timely and adequate access to health services (Portugal);

104.51 Ensure the definition of non-discrimination in the Constitution is comprehensive and in line with international human rights standards and includes sexual orientation and gender identity as prohibited grounds for discrimination (Germany);

104.52 Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation to prevent and combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Netherlands);

104.53 Move towards decriminalization of consensual sexual relations between persons of the same sex (New Zealand);

104.54 Introduce legislation prohibiting discrimination against people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities (New Zealand);

104.55 Take steps to ensure that the draft Federal Constitution contains comprehensive disciplines, prohibiting both direct and indirect discrimination, including on a sexual orientation basis (Brazil);

104.56 Carry out public campaigns to fight against discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation and gender identity, reaffirming the inherent dignity of all human beings (Chile);

104.57 Decriminalize consensual same-sex relations (Italy)/Decriminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex (Chile) (Denmark);/Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex (Argentina);

104.58 Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex; adopt legislation that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; and adopt the necessary measures to prevent and punish threats and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Mexico);

- 104.59 Decriminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex and undertake concrete measures to combat stigma and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Portugal);
- 104.60 Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex and expand its anti-discrimination legislation to include prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Iceland);
- 104.61 Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex and undertake awareness-raising campaigns to combat prejudice (Spain);
- 104.62 Decriminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex and prohibit discrimination against people on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity (Canada);
- 104.63 Adopt legislative instruments to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity and decriminalize relations between people of the same sex (France);
- 104.64 Strengthen its development policy and the full utilization of resources for the benefit of its people including through friendly relations and collaboration with other States and regional and international organizations (Indonesia);
- 104.65 Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development and improve people's living standards (China);
- 104.66 Continue taking measures to mitigate the effects of COVID-19-induced challenges (Pakistan);
- 104.67 Continue to apply human rights principles as it seeks to implement its COVID-19 recovery (Barbados);
- 104.68 Take appropriate legislative and administrative measures to ensure that the use of exploitation of natural resources, in particular logging, do not adversely affect the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights of local communities (Slovenia);
- 104.69 Protect human rights against abuses and environmental degradation by logging companies and ensure effective remedies when abuses have occurred (Slovenia);
- 104.70 That all forest exploitation projects include prior and informed consultation with the concerned local and indigenous communities, as well as a report on the environmental and human rights impact, specifically in the area of the rights to water and sanitation (Spain);
- 104.71 Take further measures to prevent and mitigate the human rights violations caused by business activities (Timor-Leste);
- 104.72 Ensure that policies relating to the environment take into consideration their impact on human rights and on communities (Philippines);
- 104.73 Ensure the conservation and protection of fragile habitats against deforestation and forest degradation, and strengthen sustainable forest management practices to protect human rights related to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment (Canada);
- 104.74 Step up efforts to address the challenges arising from sea level rise faced by low-lying islands (Marshall Islands);
- 104.75 Continue measures to enhance the adaptation and resilience to the impacts of global climate change while also taking efforts to control activities leading to environmental degradation (Nepal);
- 104.76 Seek international support and assistance in effectively implementing the national development strategy and addressing challenges of resource constraints and climate change (Pakistan);

- 104.77 Continue the efforts made towards adapting to climate change by incorporating climate change into the school curricula and establishing an early warning system in schools, in addition to establishing a comprehensive system of social protection in the event of disasters (Sudan);
- 104.78 Enhance children's awareness and preparedness for climate change and natural disasters (Timor-Leste);
- 104.79 Implement a more mindful policy to protect the environment and reduce the negative impact of climate change (Vanuatu);
- 104.80 Maintain its commitment to advocate for climate action that is consistent with existing human rights agreements, obligations, standards and principles (Barbados);
- 104.81 Improve the capacities to respond to climate change and to resist natural disasters (China);
- 104.82 Continue consolidating the national policies and programmes designed to achieve greater and more efficient adaptation of the population to the effects of climate change (Dominican Republic);
- 104.83 Ensure that women, children, persons with disabilities, minority groups and rural communities are meaningfully engaged in the development and implementation of climate change and disaster risk reduction frameworks (Fiji);
- 104.84 Continue efforts to combat climate change, including considering the development and implementation of relocation strategies for coastal communities affected by rising sea levels (Fiji);
- 104.85 Establish a moratorium on the death penalty (Argentina);
- 104.86 Develop, enact and implement comprehensive anti-human trafficking legislation; fully implement the 2020–2025 national action plan on human trafficking; and ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (United States of America);
- 104.87 Introduce freedom of information legislation in compliance with international standards (Estonia);
- 104.88 Guarantee freedom of expression and access to information (France);
- 104.89 Conduct credible investigations into, and impose and enforce criminal penalties for, government corruption through operationalizing the 2018 Independent Commission against Corruption (United States of America);
- 104.90 Take further measures to combat corruption, including through cooperation between the Independent Commission against Corruption with anti-graft agencies in the region (Indonesia);
- 104.91 Continue to seek technical assistance from United Nations agencies to ensure that the formal justice system is accessible to all, especially those living in rural areas and to vulnerable groups, such as women, persons with disabilities and the elderly population (Maldives);
- 104.92 Continue to seek technical assistance from the United Nations and other development partners, in particular to strengthen the access of vulnerable people and those in rural areas to the formal justice system (Timor-Leste);
- 104.93 Continue to consolidate protection and access to justice, especially for people from vulnerable groups and victims of gender violence (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 104.94 Strengthen democratic elections by amending the Electoral Act to clarify eligibility requirements for voter registration with respect to residency (Australia);

- 104.95 **Adopt key recommendations from the 2020 Family Protection Act Review Report (New Zealand);**
- 104.96 **Enhance the rights, well-being and safety of women by: increasing training for police officers on their roles and obligations under the Family Protection Act; developing a road map to improve accessibility of safe accommodation services for survivors of domestic violence; and adopting recommendations of the 2020 Family Protection Act Review Report (Australia);**
- 104.97 **Continue strengthening its successful social policies, with an emphasis on economic, social and cultural rights, to provide the greatest possible well-being to its population (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 104.98 **Consider including in the labour legislation a clear definition of sexual harassment (Israel);**
- 104.99 **Take measures to reduce infant and child mortality (Ukraine);**
- 104.100 **Continue to strengthen the public health system to better protect the people's right to health (China);**
- 104.101 **Continue to promote the Government, through the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, and the national health strategy policy that focuses on improving health, universal coverage and access to basic care, especially with the strengthening of rural medical centres (Cuba);**
- 104.102 **Ensure the provision of and access to age-appropriate information, education and adolescent-friendly comprehensive, quality and timely sexual and reproductive health services at both government and non-government led health facilities for adolescents and youth, including those with disabilities (Malaysia);**
- 104.103 **Ensure the provision of and access to age-appropriate information, education and adolescent-friendly comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents and youth, including those with disabilities (Germany);**
- 104.104 **Develop and adopt comprehensive sexuality education in the mandatory school curriculum in line with the United Nations international technical guidance on sexuality education (Netherlands);**
- 104.105 **Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development to ensure access to appropriate information, education and adolescent-friendly comprehensive quality and timely sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents and youth, in order for them to be able to make informed choices about their sexuality and reproductive matters and protect them from unintended pregnancies, gender-based violence and sexually transmitted infections (Iceland);**
- 104.106 **Consider modifying its legislation to decriminalize abortion in cases of rape, incest and risk to the health of the mother or serious malformations of the fetus and consider decriminalizing it in all other cases, provide women with high-quality post-abortion care, guarantee freedom of women's access to modern contraception as part of the policy on free health care, and provide age-appropriate information and education on sexual and reproductive health (Argentina);**
- 104.107 **Guarantee sexual and reproductive health and rights, including by strengthening sexuality education programmes, and implement targeted measures to ensure access to health services for people with disabilities (France);**
- 104.108 **Develop and adopt a comprehensive sexuality and family life education curriculum following the updated United Nations international technical guidelines on sexuality education (Ireland);**

- 104.109 Continue taking steps to improve access to education for all by addressing barriers and provide sufficient budget for the education sector (Malaysia);
- 104.110 Ensure adequate access to quality education for all children, including in the outer islands and rural areas (Portugal);
- 104.111 Continue its efforts to implement legislation to make education compulsory for early childhood, primary and secondary education (Bahamas);
- 104.112 Make primary education compulsory and make it equitable and accessible, and improve the capacity of educational institutions (Canada);
- 104.113 Maintain efforts of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development in the implementation of the Educational Infrastructure Plan, as well as the National Policy for Inclusive Development in Education (Cuba);
- 104.114 Take further steps to increase the participation of women in public service and enhance measures for women's economic empowerment (Philippines);
- 104.115 Ensure gender equality, including with regard to the right to nationality by amending the Citizenship Act (Germany);
- 104.116 Ensure that women have equal rights to acquire and transmit nationality in law and in practice and amend the Citizenship Act to ensure that women and men are treated equally (Iceland);
- 104.117 Consider further measures for the progressive realization of gender equality, including wage parity (India);
- 104.118 Adopt a strategy to eliminate violence against women and children, including sexual abuse and exploitation, and domestic violence, focusing on the affected communities (Chile);
- 104.119 Continue efforts to combat and eliminate violence against women and children, and consider the development and adoption of a national strategy to frame and advance these efforts (Fiji);
- 104.120 Continue with efforts aimed at prevention of gender-based violence (Georgia);
- 104.121 Effectively implement the Family Protection Act and take measures to prevent gender-based violence (Japan);
- 104.122 Continue efforts to adopt the necessary measures to provide effective protection to victims of gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and domestic violence (Mexico);
- 104.123 Expand SAFENET to the five remaining provinces of Solomon Islands to allow all survivors of gender-based violence to access appropriate support services (Iceland);
- 104.124 Strengthen regulations to combat gender violence, establish and provide budgetary funding for reception and support programmes for victims, undertake awareness-raising campaigns, as well as combat the practice of the "bride price" (Spain);
- 104.125 Intensify its efforts in combating gender-based violence, particularly domestic violence, and ensure nationwide access to support for the survivors (Thailand);
- 104.126 Strengthen efforts in preventing gender-based violence, including through continuous training for police officers (Ukraine);
- 104.127 Continue its efforts to eliminate gender-based violence, including domestic violence and sexual violence, by establishing public dialogue and

advocacy efforts in communities and schools, and by strengthening the capacity of support services available to survivors of violence (Canada);

104.128 Strengthen efforts in the fight against gender-based violence, in particular by strengthening education, training and awareness of domestic and sexual violence (France);

104.129 Further enhance ongoing efforts to fight gender-based violence, including domestic violence (Italy);

104.130 Redouble efforts to increase the representation of women in decision-making positions in legislative, executive and judicial institutions (Senegal);

104.131 Intensify its efforts to facilitate the participation of women in public and political affairs and combat stereotypes regarding the role of women, in particular by sensitizing the population in rural areas, as previously recommended (Argentina);

104.132 Implement a national strategy for adolescents and youth, in line with international standards, by 2022 (Paraguay);

104.133 Take more effective measures to end all forms of discrimination against children with special attention to discrimination against girls, especially in the areas of education and access to basic services for children living in rural areas, as well as for children with disabilities (Sudan);

104.134 Align the legislation to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and increase the efforts to prevent all forms of violence and abuse against children, including by criminalizing the sale of children and raising the minimum legal age for marriage to 18 years (Italy);

104.135 As part of ongoing efforts to protect children, explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, without exception (Ireland);

104.136 Take the necessary measures to ensure that no child under the age of 18 is engaged in hazardous labour, including in the agriculture, logging, tourism and fishing industries (Morocco);

104.137 Address legislative gaps that leave children vulnerable, including criminalizing sexual exploitation of children, child pornography, and the sale of girls to foreign workers for sex or marriage (New Zealand);

104.138 Step up efforts to protect children from commercial sexual exploitation, including prostitution and child pornography (Philippines);

104.139 Strengthen its legal framework to prevent all forms of child exploitation, including the use, procurement or offering of a child for pornographic production or performances (Thailand);

104.140 Enhance the protection of children from abuse, including sex trafficking, child pornography, forced marriages, and forced labour and domestic servitude (United States of America);

104.141 Take additional steps to address the sexual exploitation of children, particularly within logging camps (Bahamas);

104.142 Investigate reported cases of child abuse, including domestic violence and sexual abuse, and reported cases of exploitation of girls in the logging and tourism industry, and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice (Botswana);

104.143 Provide adequate resources towards enforcement of laws enacted to protect children from all forms of abuse and towards supporting child victims of violence and abuse (Botswana);

104.144 Criminalize and strictly prosecute all forms of sexual exploitation of children, including the use, procurement or offering of a child for the production

of pornography or pornographic performances and the sale of girls for sex and marriage (Brazil);

104.145 Train all actors in the justice sector in the application of the law amending the provisions relating to sexual exploitation and trafficking in children (Côte d'Ivoire);

104.146 Review the Islanders Marriage Act with a view to increase the legal age of marriage to 18 years old (Marshall Islands);

104.147 As a priority, take steps to eliminate child marriage (Mauritius);

104.148 Increase the minimum age for marriage to 18 years and criminalize the sale and sexual exploitation of girls and boys (Mexico);

104.149 Harmonize child-related legislation with international standards, in particular the laws on marriage, labour and education, as well as the Penal Code (Montenegro);

104.150 Step up measures to combat child trafficking, child marriage and sexual abuse (Nepal);

104.151 End child, early and forced marriage by raising the minimum age for marriage from 15 to 18 years (Netherlands);

104.152 Revise the Marital Act for nationals to set at 18 the legal minimum age for marriage to eradicate child marriage (Chile);

104.153 Modify current legislation to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings (Paraguay);

104.154 Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings (Denmark) (Estonia);

104.155 Strengthen efforts to further promote the rights of children with disabilities (Japan);

104.156 Take steps to ensure that education is freely provided as per its legislation, and that children with disabilities be provided child-specific allocations to better cater for their health and education (Mauritius);

104.157 Adopt a human rights-based approach to disability and a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities (Montenegro)/Adopt a human rights-based approach to disability and set up a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities (Ukraine);

104.158 Enact laws to prohibit discrimination against persons with physical, sensory, intellectual or mental disabilities (New Zealand);

104.159 Adopt laws to properly incorporate the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; make reasonable accommodation to promote the rights of children with disabilities; and adopt a national plan of action and policy on disability and inclusive development (Chile);

104.160 Ensure that children with disabilities have access to inclusive education (Israel).

105. 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 Solomon Islands was headed by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Collin Beck, and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Moses Mose, Ambassador, Solomon Islands Mission in Brussels;
 - Mr. Cedrik Alependava, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs;
 - Mrs. Susan Sulu, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Planning and Development Cooperation;
 - Mr. Paul Mae, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs;
 - Mr. Cornelius Walegere, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade;
 - Ms. Waela Ngai, Director, Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs;
 - Mrs. Loretta Taake Whitney, Director, Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs;
 - Mr. Samuel Wara, Director, Ministry of National Planning and Development Cooperation;
 - Mrs. Janice Mose-Kemakeza, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade;
 - Ms. Vanessa Rodie, Minister-Counsellor, Solomon Islands Mission in Brussels;
 - Ms. Kyla Venokana, Chief Policy Officer, Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs;
 - Mr. Undikolo Pelobule, Senior Desk Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade;
 - Mr. Paul Pandarongo, Desk Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade.
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