



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures,
Universal Periodic Review
(2015-2020)



This guidebook has been produced
with the financial support of the
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FOREWORD



The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) - Syria is pleased to provide this compilation of recommendations made by UN Human Rights Mechanisms to the Syrian Arab Republic between 2015 and 2020. The compilation includes recommendations by mechanisms including the *Universal Periodic Review, Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council*.

This booklet is intended to serve as a reference for state officials in Syria and civil society organisations who can use it as a baseline reference in their programming. It also addresses other stakeholders, including Member States of

the United Nations as well as international donors who are interested in sponsoring initiatives that help translate these recommendations into concrete actions on the ground.

As the third UPR cycle for Syria as well as other reviews from Treaty Bodies approach, achieving progress in the implementation of these recommendations will strengthen the link between international dialogue and national policies, and set the stage for greater steps towards the realisation of human rights for all Syrians.

I hope you will find inspiration and insight in reading this booklet.

Dimiter Chalev

*Representative,
UN Human Rights Office for Syria*

September 2020

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INTRODUCTION

Human Rights Mechanisms are key instruments in the promotion, protection and advancement of human rights. Their role is to ensure that the norms and principles enshrined in international treaties translate into practical commitments to protect human rights for all. These mechanisms play an important role in guiding States and other stakeholders towards the full implementation of human rights treaties through a monitoring and review process. Thus follow-up activities on the recommendations and findings by these mechanisms are key to ensure effective enjoyment of all human rights by all.

I. WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF THE BOOKLET?

This booklet is a compilation of all recommendations by United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms (HRMs) addressed to the Syrian Arab Republic between 2015 and 2020. The recommendations were issued by the following mechanisms:

▶ **Treaty Bodies:** committees of independent experts that monitor the implementation of the core international human rights treaties. Countries are reviewed on a regular basis during which recommendations in the form of concluding observations (CO) are made. Syria was reviewed by the *Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)* in 2014 and the *Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)* in 2019.

▶ **Special Procedures:** independent experts mandated by the Human Rights Council to report and advise on human rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective. The Syrian Arab Republic received one visit by the *Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons* in 2016 and a second by the *Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights* in 2018.

▶ **Universal Periodic Review (UPR):** A process undertaken by the Human Rights Council which involves the periodic review of all 191 Member States of the United Nations. The Syrian Arab Republic's human rights record was last reviewed in 2016. This booklet includes the recommendations which enjoyed support of the Government*.

* For detailed information about the Universal Periodic Review for Syria and comprehensive list of recommendations, please refer to the Booklet "Recommendations addressed to the Syrian Arab Republic during the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review" issued by OHCHR Syria

II. HOW CAN YOU USE THIS BOOKLET?

The recommendations were compiled and clustered according to five thematic areas: the national and international institutional framework for the protection of human rights in Syria; the protection of groups risking discrimination; civil and political rights; economic social and cultural rights; and measures pertaining to a rights-based approach to humanitarian assistance. In some instances, the recommendations were rephrased to enable grouping. For the exact wording,

please refer to the official documents on OHCHR website.

This booklet targets various audiences, including the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, Member States of the United Nations, and Civil Society Organisations seeking to engage in follow-up activities to these reviews. The booklet will help raise awareness about these recommendations and encourage their dissemination. It will also serve as a basis for activities that ensure these recommendations are implemented and their progress is monitored.

I. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK



A. International cooperation on human rights issues

I. COOPERATION WITH HRMS AND OHCHR

- ▶ Cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms (*UPR 109.79, Republic of Korea*);
- ▶ Cooperate with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (*UPR 109.82, Belgium*);
- ▶ Cooperate with the internal United Nations Board of Inquiry on its investigation into attacks on the United Nations-Syrian Arab Red Crescent relief operation (*UPR 109.37, Republic of Korea*);
- ▶ Cooperate and grant access to the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic and the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (*CRC CO para 21.h, 59*);
- ▶ Allow independent access of United Nations entities to all areas, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to enable them to monitor and document as well as determine the full scale and scope of human rights violations perpetrated against the civilian population, including women and girls (*CEDAW CO para 8.b*);

- ▶ Consider seeking international assistance and avail itself of technical assistance in the development and implementation of a comprehensive programme aimed at the implementation of the above recommendations and the Convention as a whole and continue its cooperation with specialised agencies and programmes of the United Nations system (*CEDAW CO para 51*).

II. FOLLOW-UP AND GENERAL MEASURES OF IMPLEMENTATION

- ▶ Withdraw its reservations to articles 2 and 15 (4) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (*UPR 109.7 Sierra Leone; CEDAW CO para 16*);
- ▶ Withdraw general reservation and one to article 14 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (*CRC CO para 7*);
- ▶ Raise awareness of the rights enshrined in the Convention and its Optional Protocols, and to train the judiciary, the police, the army and other law enforcement professionals, as well



as school, health and social workers, on the rights of the child (CRC CO para 14);

- ▶ Make concluding observations widely available in the languages of the country (CRC CO para 60; CEDAW CO para 50);
- ▶ Establish a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up as standing government structure mandated to coordinate, prepare reports and engage with regional and international Human Rights Mechanisms (CRC CO para 61);
- ▶ Use the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in its efforts to implement the provisions of the Convention (CEDAW CO para 48);
- ▶ The Committee invites the State party to submit its combined sixth and seventh periodic reports by 13 February 2024 and to include therein information on the follow-up to the present concluding observations (CRC CO para 62);
- ▶ The Committee requests the State party to provide, within one year, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 14 (a), 16, 27 (c), (d) and 30 (c) (CEDAW CO para 53);
- ▶ The Committee invites the State party to submit its third periodic report in July 2018 (CEDAW CO para 54).

III. SUGGESTED NEW RATIFICATIONS

- ▶ Consider ratifying all core human rights conventions (UPR 109.1 Algeria);

- ▶ Ratify the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[†] (UPR 109.3 Guatemala, 109.4 El Salvador);

- ▶ The Committee encourages the State party to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention and to accept, as soon as possible, the amendment to article 20 (1) of the Convention concerning the meeting time of the Committee (CEDAW CO para 47);

- ▶ Ratify Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (UPR 109.5 Uruguay);

- ▶ Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (UPR 109.1 Algeria, 109.6 Uruguay ; 109.7 Sierra Leone, CEDAW CO para 52; CRC CO para 58);

- ▶ Ratify the Arms Trade Treaty (UPR 109.8 Uruguay);

- ▶ Ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (UPR 109.9 Holy See);

- ▶ Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure (CRC CO para 57);

[†] The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic supported the recommendation with the exception of the provision related to the abolition of the death penalty



▶ Consider ratifying the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (*CRC CO para 24.e*).

IV. COOPERATION WITH MEMBER STATES

▶ Continue to promote dialogue with all States, on the basis of mutual respect,

sovereign equality, self-determination and the right to choose their own political, economic and social system (*UPR 109.18 Democratic People's Republic of Korea*);

▶ Continue cooperating with the international community to alleviate the effects of the crisis on Syrian citizens (*UPR 109.33 Nicaragua, 109.36 Nigeria*).

B. National Framework

I. NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

▶ Consider establishing an independent National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (*UPR 109.27 Russian Federation, 109.28 Algeria*);

▶ Strengthen its institutional framework to allow it to defend its sovereignty and protect the human rights of its people (*UPR 109.29 Indonesia, 109.17 Nicaragua, 109.26 Bolivian Republic of Venezuela*).

II. PEACE PROCESS

▶ Continue supporting international efforts and cooperating with the United Nations to find a political solution (*UPR 109.19 Guatemala, 109.63*

Japan, 109.64 Nicaragua, 109.65 Sudan, 109.67 to 109.77 Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Algeria, Argentina, China, Cuba, Egypt, Holy See, Iceland, Indonesia, 109.31 Italy, 109.32 Argentina);

▶ Implement Security Council resolutions in order to facilitate a (peaceful) political transition led by the Syrian people and based on the Geneva communiqué (*UPR 109.19 Guatemala*);

▶ Implement the cessation of hostilities agreement to achieve a full, comprehensive ceasefire which will provide the grounds for improving human rights (*UPR 109.20 Egypt*);

▶ Revive the peace negotiations; ensure the meaningful and inclusive participation of women holding different political views



at all stages of the peace process and in all reconstruction initiatives as well as in transitional justice processes, in particular at the decision-making level, at the national and local levels, and to that end, adopt temporary special measures, such as quotas, in conformity with article 4 (1) of the Convention (*CEDAW CO para 14.a*);

- ▶ Provide opportunities for women's and civil society organisations to contribute to the peace process as independent actors, for example by establishing an effective channel of communication between them and the mediation team to ensure coordination and joint initiatives for the inclusion of women's priorities (*CEDAW CO para 14.b*);
- ▶ Reaffirm the non-negotiable character of all the rights under the Convention and adopt a strategy to prevent any setback for women's rights in the peace negotiations (*CEDAW CO para 14.c*);
- ▶ Revive and engage in a political process aiming at building a comprehensive and lasting peace, which lays the foundation for a comprehensive democracy rooted in the rule of law (*CEDAW CO para 14.d*);
- ▶ Ensure that sexual violence concerns are raised early and consistently in the peace process and, ultimately, that they are adequately reflected in a peace agreement; and continue rejecting amnesties for gender-based crimes, in particular sexual violence (*CEDAW CO para 27.h*).

III. INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS

- ▶ Continue protecting its population from the effects of unilateral coercive measures and consider establishing a national mechanism to monitor and assess the negative effects of these measures on the enjoyment of human rights of the Syrian people (*UPR 109.21 Nicaragua, 109.22 Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, 109.23 Democratic People's Republic of Korea*);
- ▶ Sanction regimes must not impede the delivery of goods or services provided for the realisation of the human rights of Syrians, and should be provided to all Syrians, without discrimination (*Mission report Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, A/HRC/39/54/Add.2, para 75*);
- ▶ The Special Rapporteur recommends that all concerned Member States, in collaboration with the United Nations, begin to identify the priority humanitarian and human rights needs of the Syrian people, with a view to progressively including related goods and services in the measures which the proposed procurement channel, or any other potential solution, can import into Syria. As a priority, goods and services related to the provision of shelter, water and sanitation, education, health and electricity should be identified (*Mission report Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, A/HRC/39/54/Add.2, para 79*).



II. NON-DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF SPECIFIC GROUPS



A. Women

I. NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

- ▶ Incorporate in its Constitution and/or in its legislation, provisions on equality between women and men and prohibit direct and indirect discrimination against women in the public and private spheres, as well as provide sanctions, in line with articles 1 and 2 of the Convention (*CEDAW CO para 18.a, UPR 109.88 El Salvador*);
- ▶ Amend article 3 of the Constitution and bring it in line with the Convention (*CEDAW CO para 18.b*);
- ▶ Repeal all discriminatory provisions of the Penal Code, the Syrian Personal Status Law, the Nationality Law and other relevant legislation, regulations and directives. (*UPR 109.92 Ghana; CEDAW CO 18.c; CRC CO 8.b*);
- ▶ Draft and adopt legislation to end violence and discrimination against women (*UPR 109.176 Maldives*);
- ▶ Enhance the capacity of the Syrian Commission for Family Affairs and

Population so that it becomes an essential advocate for the advancement of women during the peacebuilding and reconstruction processes (*CEDAW CO para 20.a*);

- ▶ Adopt a national plan to assess and address the negative impact of the conflict on the lives of women and girls, in line with the Convention and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) (*CEDAW CO para 20.b*);
- ▶ The Committee calls for the integration of a gender perspective, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, into all efforts aimed at the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and in relation to the post-2015 development framework (*CEDAW CO para 49*).

II. PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL AND PUBLIC LIFE

- ▶ Pursue sustained policies aimed at the promotion of the full and equal participation of women in decision-making as a democratic requirement in all areas



of public and political life at the national, regional and local levels by, inter alia, adopting temporary special measures in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee's General Recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures (*CEDAW CO para 36.a*);

- ▶ Amend its Electoral Law (Decree No. 101/2011) and its Political Parties Law (Decree No. 100/2011) in order to incorporate quotas of at least 30 per cent for women's representation in the People's Assembly and Provincial Councils (*CEDAW CO para 36.b*);

- ▶ Adopt the draft law on Associations; ensure that there are no restrictions on the establishment of women's and civil society organisations that are contrary to international human rights standards, and that women are able to freely participate in political and public life independent of the government and in an enabling environment in full respect of their freedoms of expression, association and assembly (*CEDAW CO para 36.c*);

- ▶ Implement awareness-raising activities on the importance of women's participation in decision-making for society as a whole, in particular as candidates and voters, with a view to eliminating patriarchal attitudes that deter women from such participation (*CEDAW CO para 36.d*);

- ▶ Strengthen and expand the relevant legal provisions for the promotion of the rights of women, in particular by strengthening their autonomy and advancing their participation in political, economic and social life (*UPR 109.86, 109.87 Nicaragua, 109.89 Lao People's Democratic Republic*).

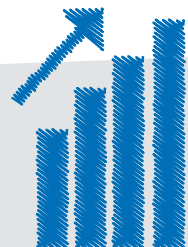
III. EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ Strengthen its efforts to provide women affected by the conflict, including women with disabilities, widows and women heads of households with sustainable economic opportunities and effectively address all barriers to women's equitable participation in the labour market (*CEDAW CO para 42.a*);

- ▶ Develop economic recovery strategies which promote gender equality as a necessary precondition for a sustainable post-conflict economy (*CEDAW CO para 42.b*);

- ▶ Pay due attention to the negative impact of the conflict on rural women and ensure that their specific needs are addressed and that they have equal access to basic services (*CEDAW CO para 44.a*);

- ▶ Design specific interventions to leverage opportunities for their economic empowerment and ensure that they are involved in the design of those strategies and programmes and in their monitoring (*CEDAW CO para 44.b*).



IV. MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

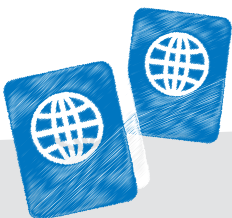
- ▶ Adopt comprehensive legislation to prevent and criminalise domestic violence which provides for protection, assistance and support for victims (*CEDAW CO para 32.a, UPR 109.15 Sierra Leone*);
- ▶ Repeal article 508 of the Penal Code and amend the Penal Code to criminalise rape under all circumstances and to explicitly criminalise marital rape (*CEDAW CO para 32.b*);
- ▶ Conduct a review of the Personal Status Law and other relevant laws, which will remove the provisions that are discriminatory towards women, such as those not granting them guardianship of their children, disabling them from travelling on their own with their children or not allowing them to transfer their citizenship to their children (*UPR 109.91 Czech Republic*);
- ▶ Repeal all discriminatory provisions contained in the Syrian Personal Status Law, in particular those related to unequal rights of women and men to marriage, divorce, custody, inheritance, polygamy and child and/or forced marriages (*CEDAW para CO 46.a*);
- ▶ Urgently take measures to ensure the effective implementation of the Directives of the Ministry of Interior aimed at facilitating women's travel with their children without the permission of the father or guardian, and ensure that women do not face bureaucratic obstacles in this regard (*CEDAW CO para 46.b*).

V. NATIONALITY AND CIVIL DOCUMENTATION

- ▶ Amend its Nationality Law (Decree No. 276/1969), in particular article 3, in order to ensure that women and men enjoy equal rights to acquire, transfer, retain and change their nationality, in line with article 9 of the Convention (*CEDAW CO para 38.a, CRC CO 24.c, UPR 109.90 Namibia*);
- ▶ Fully implement Decree No. 49/2011 so as to ensure that it covers all Syrian Kurds who are still stateless, in particular women and girls and their children (*CEDAW CO para 38.b*);
- ▶ Guarantee the right of conflict-affected women and girls to obtain all personal documents necessary for the exercise of their rights including their right to have such documentation issued in their own names, and ensure the prompt issuance or replacement of documents without imposing unreasonable conditions, such as requiring displaced women and girls to return to their area of original residence to obtain such documents (*CEDAW CO para 38.c*).

VI. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

- ▶ Halt all detention of women involved in peaceful and humanitarian activities and release all women activists who have been arbitrarily detained; and ensure that those released by virtue of an amnesty law are not at risk of being re-detained or placed under surveillance (*CEDAW CO para 30.a*);



▶ Guarantee the human rights of women activists, in particular freedom of movement, expression, assembly and association, nationality, liberty and integrity of the person as well as access to justice (*CEDAW CO para 30.b*);

▶ Prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish attacks and other forms of abuse perpetrated against women activists and take effective measures to end impunity for such acts (*CEDAW CO para 30.c*).

VII. STEREOTYPES AND HARMFUL PRACTICES

▶ Adopt a comprehensive strategy to eliminate all harmful practices and negative stereotypes which perpetuate the subordinate role of women in society, in conformity with articles 2 and 5 of the Convention. Such a strategy should include awareness-raising efforts targeting the general public, the media and religious and community leaders, in collaboration with civil society and women's organisations (*CEDAW CO para 22.a*);

▶ Conduct an assessment of the impact of the exacerbation of negative stereotypes and deep-rooted patriarchal and traditional attitudes on women during the conflict, in order to inform the development of legislative and policy measures (*CEDAW CO para 22.b*);

▶ The Committee calls upon non-State armed groups to respect the human rights

of women in line with the Convention (*CEDAW CO para 23*);

▶ Address the specific risks and particular needs of different groups of internally displaced women and girls who are subjected to multiple forms of discrimination, including, widows, women with disabilities and older women (*CEDAW CO para 10.b*).

VIII. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

▶ Comply with its obligations under the Convention as well as under international humanitarian, refugee and criminal law so as to ensure protection for women and girls under these bodies of law, in a complementary manner (*CEDAW CO para 8.a*);

▶ Prohibit and undertake efforts to prevent all forms of violence against women, in particular sexual violence by Government forces and affiliated militias and non-State armed groups (*CEDAW CO para 27.a*; *UPR 109.177 Pakistan*);

▶ Amend its Penal Code so as to incorporate provisions on sexual violence, in particular rape as a war crime, in line with international standards (*CEDAW CO para 27.b*);

▶ Protect women and girls from child, early and forced marriage (*UPR 109.180 Sierra Leone, 109.181 Ghana*);



▶ Adopt a national plan to promote and protect the rights of all women and girls, in particular those victims of the conflict, making sure that resources for its implementation are available (*UPR 109.30 Chile*);

▶ Adopt practical measures to prevent the occurrence of all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual violence and exploitation as well as harmful practices, such as child and/or forced marriages, and ensure their protection (*CEDAW CO para 10.c*);

▶ In line with its General Recommendation No. 30 (2013), the Committee recommends that non-State armed groups commit themselves to abiding by codes of conduct on the protection of women's rights and the prohibition of all forms of gender-based violence, in particular sexual violence (*CEDAW CO para 28*);

▶ Amend the Penal Code and the Criminal Code to eliminate mitigated sentences for rapists who marry their victims for so-called "honour crimes" (*UPR 109.14 Sierra Leone*);

▶ Repeal articles 192, 242 and 548 of the Penal Code to ensure that perpetrators of crimes in the name of so-called "honour" cannot invoke the defence of honour as a mitigating circumstance for such crimes (*CEDAW CO para 25.a*);

▶ Ensure the protection of individuals reporting such crimes as well as of women at risk of being victims of so-called "honour" crimes (*CEDAW CO para 25.c*);

▶ The Government must take all necessary steps to protect women, including vulnerable displaced women, from all forms of violations of their human rights. Services to address the needs of displaced women who have experienced sexual or gender-based violence should be strengthened and extended and include psychosocial care (*Mission report of SR on IDPs, A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para 97*).

IX. ACCOUNTABILITY, REPARATION AND SUPPORT TO VICTIMS

▶ Investigate, prosecute and punish all cases of violence against women, including cases of sexual violence perpetrated by Government forces and affiliated militia and non-State armed groups (*CEDAW CO para 27.c*; *CRC CO para 31.b*);

▶ Adopt gender-sensitive procedures to investigate sexual violence; conduct training and adopt gender-sensitive codes of conduct and protocols for the police and military; and build the capacity of the judiciary so as to ensure its independence, impartiality and integrity (*CEDAW CO para 27.e*);

▶ Ensure access by women victims of sexual violence to comprehensive medical treatment, mental health care and psychosocial support; and seek the assistance of relevant United Nations agencies and bodies in this regard (*CEDAW CO para 27.f*; *UPR 109.178 Singapore*);



▶ Provide victims with transformative reparation measures which respond to women's specific needs and address structural inequities under-pinning violence against women, in particular sexual violence and prevent the recurrence of such violence (*CEDAW CO para 27.g*);

▶ Expedite the establishment of the Family Protection Unit; ensure an adequate number of shelters for women victims of violence throughout its territory; strengthen both medical and psychological support services for victims (*CEDAW CO para 32.c*);

▶ Eliminate impunity in the case of crimes committed in the name of so-called "honour" by, inter alia, strengthening the identification and investigation of such crimes as well as the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators (*CEDAW CO para 25.b*);

▶ Ensure that accountability mechanisms are in place in all displacement settings; and provide victims with immediate access to medical services (*CEDAW CO para 10.d*).

X. PEACE AND SECURITY

▶ Ensure the meaningful and inclusive participation of women holding different political views at all stages of the peace process and in all reconstruction initiatives as well as in transitional justice processes, in particular

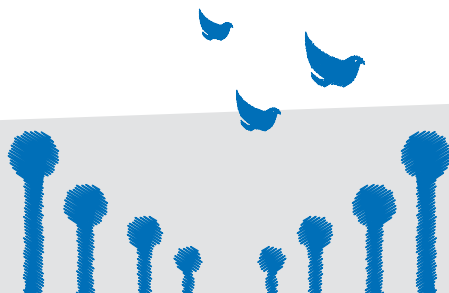
at the decision-making level, at the national and local levels, and to that end, adopt temporary special measures, such as quotas, in conformity with article 4 (1) of the Convention (*CEDAW CO para 14.a*);

▶ Ensure the inclusive participation of women in the development and implementation of the National Action Plan to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions (*CEDAW CO para 14.e*);

▶ Immediately implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions on women, peace and security, including by taking special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence and to hold perpetrators of such acts accountable (*UPR 109.85 Finland*);

▶ Include the women's rights perspective in the peace negotiations and, specifically, ensure that sexual violence concerns are raised consistently in the peace process and reflected in any peace agreement (*UPR 109.179 Slovenia*);

▶ Establish a roadmap with a clear time frame, benchmarks and a gender-responsive budget to implement the National Action Plan; and develop indicators for the regular monitoring of its implementation; and provide for accountability mechanisms (*CEDAW CO para 14.f*).



B. Children

I. NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

- ▶ Enact the Child Rights Bill (*UPR 109.16 Maldives; CRC CO para 8.a*);
- ▶ Continue its efforts for the full realisation of the rights of Syrian children in the occupied Syrian Golan (*UPR 109.25 Islamic Republic of Iran*);
- ▶ Prepare a comprehensive policy on children that encompasses all areas covered by the Convention and to develop a child rights' strategy with provisions for the human, technical and financial resources necessary for its implementation (*CRC CO para 9*);
- ▶ Define mandate and authority of Syrian Commission for Family Affairs and Population and provide it with human, technical, and financial resources (*CEDAW CO para 20.a, CRC CO para 10*);
- ▶ Ensure that the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration is appropriately integrated in court procedures related to divorce and custody, in placement of children in public care, in military and security operations and in reconstruction efforts (*CRC CO para 18*);
- ▶ Establish an independent mechanism for monitoring children's rights, which should

be able to receive, investigate and address complaints by children in a child-sensitive manner, while ensuring the privacy and protection of child victims, and which should undertake independent and confidential monitoring, follow-up and verification activities, including in all facilities where children are or may be deprived of their liberty. (*CRC CO para 13*);

- ▶ Make information about the work carried out by the national/regional committee on monitoring the rights of the child in the light of the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic publicly available in a regular manner (*CRC CO para 51.h*).

II. RIGHTS-BASED PROGRAMMING

- ▶ Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the budget needs of children, and allocate adequate budgetary resources for the implementation of children's rights in all governorates, and make sure that those budgetary lines are protected even in situations such as the ongoing armed conflict (*CRC CO para 11.a*);
- ▶ Utilise a child-rights-based approach in the elaboration of the State budget, by implementing a tracking system for the



allocation and use of resources for children (*CRC CO para 11.b*);

- ▶ Ensure that the data collected be disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic origin and nationality, to facilitate analysis of the situation of all children and that data and indicators shared among ministries are used for the evaluation and monitoring of policies (*CRC CO para 12 a-b*);
- ▶ Strengthen its efforts to provide specialised child-protection programmes for the physical and psychological rehabilitation and reintegration of child victims of crimes, including torture and other cruel or degrading treatment or punishment, sexual exploitation and abuse, child marriage, recruitment and use in hostilities, sale and trafficking, paying attention to the different needs of girls and boys, and provide reparation to victims as appropriate (*CRC CO para 56*);
- ▶ Systematically involve non-governmental children's organisations in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, plans and programmes (*CRC CO para 15.a*).

III. FAMILY ENVIRONMENT

- ▶ Repeal all legal provisions that discriminate against girls such as not allowing children to receive their mother's nationality (*CRC CO para 17.a*);

- ▶ Strengthen its measures to support families, without discrimination, and pay particular attention to women-headed families and families living in areas previously controlled by non-State armed groups, and ensure that mothers and fathers share responsibility for their children on an equal basis in all matters (*CRC CO para 34*);
- ▶ Support and facilitate family-based care for children wherever possible, and strengthen the system of foster care with a view to reducing the institutionalisation of children, and ensure periodic review of the placement of children to monitor quality of care (*CRC CO para 35.a,c*);
- ▶ Eliminate the segregation of orphans of known parents and those of unknown parents in separate institutional care facilities, as it leads to further stigmatisation of those children and reduces their life chances (*CRC CO para 35.b*);
- ▶ Take into account the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children (General Assembly resolution 64/142 of 18 December 2009, annex) (*CRC CO para 35.d*).

IV. CIVIL DOCUMENTATION

- ▶ Strengthen its efforts to re-establish civil affairs services throughout the territory, take into account the difficulties faced by families currently or previously living in areas controlled by non-State actors in gaining access to official



documentation, and consider recognising documents issued locally by mukhtars or sheikhs to facilitate the issuance of birth certificates; (*CRC CO para 24.a*);

▶ Consider waving fees for late birth registration, in particular among displaced families and those living in areas newly under State control, and consider adopting temporary measures, such as mobile teams to assist families in hard-to-reach areas, to promote and facilitate birth registration; (*CRC CO para 24.b*);

▶ Review its legislation to implement gender-equitable measures regarding civil documentation allowing women to be the legal guardians of their children (*CRC CO para 24.c*);

▶ Amend the Personal Status Code to ensure that children of Muslim mothers and non-Muslim fathers, children born to unmarried parents and children born from situations of sexual violence are recognised, registered and have access to birth registration documents (*CRC CO para 24.d*);

▶ Liaise with Kurdish-led authorities to conduct an individual analysis of the situation of each child born to non-Syrian mothers held in camps, to determine the appropriate measures for their care, development and rehabilitation (*CRC CO para 51.g*).

V. CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

▶ Organise the collection of data on children with disabilities and develop an efficient

system for diagnosing disability, and strengthen referral mechanisms and case management processes (*CRC CO para 36.a*);

▶ Support and encourage family-based care for children with disabilities, accelerate their deinstitutionalisation process, and encourage foster care for children who cannot stay with their families (*CRC CO para 36.b*);

▶ Develop appropriate policies and programmes for children with disabilities, with their participation, paying attention to children whose disabilities are a result of the armed conflict (*CRC CO para 36.c*);

▶ Ensure that children with disabilities have access to health care and medical rehabilitation services, including early detection, psychosocial support and access to orthopaedic devices (*CRC CO para 36.d*);

▶ Ensure progressively that all children with disabilities have access to inclusive education (*CRC CO para 36.e*).

VI. LEISURE, RECREATION AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

▶ While noting the efforts made to protect children from harmful information, the Committee recommends that the State party ensure children's access to information and material from a



diversity of national and international sources of all forms, including the Internet, with a view to guaranteeing the child's exposure to a plurality of opinions (*CRC CO para 26*);

- ▶ Pay due attention in the reconstruction efforts to providing children with safe, accessible and inclusive spaces for play and socialisation, particularly in areas retaken by the State, and fully involve children in designing play and leisure policies and activities at the community level (*CRC CO para 46*).
- ▶ Ensure the full respect for the child's rights to freedom of expression and to freedom of association and peaceful assembly (*CRC CO para 25*).

VII. CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT

- ▶ Respect the principles of legality, distinction and proportionality when carrying out military operations, refrain from unlawful conduct such as indiscriminate and deliberate attacks and the use of unlawful weapons, and take all precautions to protect children from the effects of hostilities (*CRC CO para 21.a*);
- ▶ Take prompt measures to prevent children from being victims of indiscriminate attacks and of the use of unlawful weapons or tactics of war, and issue military directives in this

regard with clear procedures and sanctions for non-compliance (*CRC CO para 51.a*);

- ▶ Strengthen its measures to further assess and understand the potential threats posed by explosive hazards, such as technical explosive hazard surveys, to protect the right to life, survival and development of children (*CRC CO para 21.b*);
- ▶ Undertake measures to attend to the psychological needs of children whose survival and development are affected by bombings and attacks (*CRC CO para 21.c*);
- ▶ Protect children from impact of conflict including from recruitment, kidnapping, abuse and sexual violence of children by parties to the conflict and punish perpetrators of these violations (*UPR 109.93-94 Pakistan, Angola, 109.183 Chile, 109.185 to 109.187, Portugal, Singapore, Luxembourg*);
- ▶ Fully implement Law No. 11 of 2013 prohibiting the recruitment and involvement of children in hostilities, and take prompt measures to investigate, prosecute and sanction the perpetrators in cases of child recruitment (*CRC CO para 51.b*);
- ▶ Strengthen its efforts to implement the national workplan to prevent and respond to child recruitment, and



develop a national strategy for the rehabilitation and reintegration of children recruited by security forces and non-State armed groups (*CRC CO para 51.c*);

- ▶ Adopt the measures necessary to protect and demobilise minors forcibly recruited as combatants, so that those responsible for such acts are brought to justice (*UPR 109.184 Mexico*);
- ▶ Strengthen its efforts to raise awareness of mine risk reduction; substantially increase resources for the removal of explosive ordnance; establish mitigation measures in areas being cleared or pending clearance; and provide specialised support services for child victims of explosive ordnance incidents (*CRC CO para 51.f*);
- ▶ Ensure that allegations of violations against children perpetrated by any party to the conflict, in particular those that may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity, are investigated in a transparent, timely and independent manner (*CRC CO para 21.e*).

VIII. CHILDREN IN DETENTION

- ▶ Take prompt measures to release all children deprived of their liberty due to the armed conflict and ensure they are treated as victims, that they are

not exposed to torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, that they are transferred to an appropriate civilian child protection mechanism and that, if they are detained, detention is used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest period of time (*CRC CO para 21.d, 28.a, 51d*);

- ▶ Ensure that girls held captive by non-State armed groups are safely released, and put in place a protocol for their care and treatment (*CRC CO para 21.f*);
- ▶ Enact legislation recognising the right of the child to be heard in relevant judicial and administrative proceedings, and develop toolkits for public consultation with children on national policy development (*CRC CO para 22*);
- ▶ Promptly repeal Legislative Decrees No. 14/1969 and 69/2008 granting immunity from prosecution to security and intelligence forces, promptly investigate all allegations of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of children in an independent and transparent manner, and ensure that such acts are duly prosecuted, perpetrators sanctioned and redress is provided to child victims (*CRC CO para 28.b**);
- ▶ Grant the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross



unconditional access to all places where children are and may be detained and cooperate with those entities for the implementation of their recommendations (CRC CO para 28.c);

- ▶ Take prompt measures to prevent the abduction of children by non-State armed groups and armed forces and ensure their unconditional release and family reunification (CRC CO para 51.e);
- ▶ Raise the legal age of criminal responsibility; extend the Juveniles Act (No. 18) to all children under 18 years; ensure that children in detention are separated from adults; investigate all cases of ill-treatment and abuse and punish the perpetrators; provide legal aid to children in conflict with the law; and ensure that children have access to a confidential, safe and child-sensitive mechanism for complaints related to their deprivation of liberty (CRC CO para 55).

IX. SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, ABUSE AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

- ▶ Establish mechanisms, procedures and guidelines to ensure mandatory reporting of cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse (CRC CO para 31.a);
- ▶ Promptly investigate, prosecute and sanction members of security forces

and of non-State armed groups for committing acts of rape and sexual violence against children and for forced marriage of girls (CRC CO para 31.b);

- ▶ Ensure that all children subjected to any form of sexual exploitation are treated as victims and not subject to sanctions (CRC CO para 31.c[‡]);
- ▶ Strengthen its efforts for the establishment of family protection units to provide shelter and specialised services to child victims throughout the territory (CRC CO para 31.d);
- ▶ Ensure that allegations of crimes related to gender-based violence [...] are independently and thoroughly investigated, and that perpetrators are brought to justice and victims provided with remedies. The State party should provide, on a regular basis, substantive training for judges, lawyers, prosecutors, the police and other relevant professional groups on standardised, gender- and child-sensitive procedures for dealing with those victims (CRC CO para 32);
- ▶ Amend legislation to raise the minimum age of marriage for girls to 18 (CRC CO para 16);
- ▶ Establish a mechanism for reporting cases of child marriage, and make available protection services to child victims, including girls who were in

[‡] Rejected by SAR citing false allegations. For exact wording, please refer to letter by SAR to the CRC committee following review 19/31 on 15/02/2019



unregistered or temporary marriages
(*CRC CO para 33.a*);

▶ Develop awareness-raising campaigns and programmes on the harmful effects of child marriage on the physical and mental health and well-being of girls and boys
(*CR CO para 33.b*).

X. CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

▶ Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, and repeal without further delay article 170 of the Personal Status Code and the provisions of the Penal Code that authorise corporal punishment of children (*CRC CO para 29.a*);

▶ Prohibit domestic violence; establish a national database on all cases of domestic violence; and promote community-based programmes, with the involvement of children, aimed at preventing and tackling domestic violence, child abuse and neglect.
(*CRC CO para 30*);

▶ Strengthen public education, awareness-raising and social mobilisation programmes on the harmful effects, both physical and psychological, of corporal punishment, and promote positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing and discipline (*CRC CO para 29.b*).

XI. CHILD LABOUR AND CHILDREN LIVING ON THE STREET

▶ Protect children from the worst forms of child labour (*UPR 109.182 Belgium, 109.191 Holy See*);

▶ Adopt the draft national action plan to combat the worst forms of child labour and strengthen its efforts to effectively implement the memorandum of understanding it signed with the International Labour Organization in that regard (*CRC CO para 52*);

▶ Decriminalise begging, prevent the institutionalisation of those children and, with their participation, develop measures for their rehabilitation and social integration (*CRC CO para 53*).

XII. ASYLUM-SEEKING, REFUGEE, RETURNING, AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED CHILDREN

▶ Adopt a law for asylum seekers and refugees, ensure that children have access to identity documents, health services, education and a minimum standard of living, take measures to assist the safe, voluntary and dignified return of Syrian children (*CRC CO para 47*);



- ▶ Take all measures necessary to ensure the safety and protection of children and their families, and enable them to leave areas affected by the conflict to reach safety and to access basic humanitarian assistance (*CRC CO 21.g**);
- ▶ Increase substantially the resources allocated for internally displaced persons and implement targeted programmes for children to ensure their adequate standard of living, integrate internally displaced children and families into social assistance schemes, and ensure that all public services and programmes are accessible and available to them, including by simplifying registration procedures (*CRC CO para 48*);

- ▶ Special measures should therefore be taken to ensure the full realisation of internally displaced children's rights to survival, education, health and protection from violence, exploitation and abuse. The availability of psychosocial care for children displaced by conflict should be extended (*Mission report SR IDPs, A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para 98*);
- ▶ Education must be considered as a high priority for internally displaced children and all necessary steps taken to provide functioning education facilities at all levels and in safe locations (*Mission report SR IDPs, A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para 99*).



C. Internally displaced persons & refugees

I. LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

- ▶ Urgently put in place a legal and policy framework for the protection of internally displaced persons in accordance with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. (*Mission report SR IDPs A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para 84*);
- ▶ Institutional responsibility for internal displacement and internally displaced persons should be clearly defined and at the highest level of Government to ensure appropriate responses across government line ministries and all other relevant bodies (*Mission report SR IDPs A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para 85*);
- ▶ An extensive and comprehensive mapping of internally displaced persons locations, population flows and needs assessments are required to ensure that assistance can be deployed rapidly and programmes established where they are needed most on the ground. In particular, the situation is critical for those in remote and inaccessible areas who lack regular access to food, health care and other basic services (*Mission report SR IDPs A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para 93*);
- ▶ Reinforce policies to address the needs of migrants and refugees by providing for the safe and voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their homes and ensuring the rehabilitation of affected areas in accordance with international law (*UPR 109.197 Holy See*);

- ▶ In cooperation with international development partners the Government should explore durable solutions for internally displaced persons, or transitional steps towards such solutions, that envisage their voluntary return where possible, local integration or resettlement elsewhere in the country with viable housing and livelihood programmes (*Mission report SR IDPs A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para 104*).

II. HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

- ▶ In view of the massive and evolving shelter crisis, formulate housing plans and activities to increase the available shelter options for internally displaced persons with a priority given to the most vulnerable, including those in unsafe locations, informal camps, disused buildings, tents and other shelters lacking basic services (*Mission report SR IDPs A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para 87*);
- ▶ For impoverished internally displaced persons, housing should be provided free of charge in the short to medium term and until cash payments to internally displaced persons or livelihood projects to provide income are in place (*Mission report SR IDPs A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para 88*);
- ▶ Longer-term solutions to housing, land and property issues, including compensation and restitution of land and property, must be



envisaged and measures put in place through legal processes established in accordance with international standards (*Mission report SR IDPs A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para 90*);

▶ The vast majority of internally displaced persons are sheltering with host families. This places a heavy burden on those families and must not be considered a temporary measure until more appropriate housing solutions are possible. Assistance must also be provided to host families who are sharing their resources and suffering food and other shortages (*Mission report SR IDPs A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para 91*).

III. PROTECTION OF DISPLACED POPULATIONS

▶ Collective displacement facilities must be in safe locations, civilian in character and away from the front line or any military operations. Internally displaced persons should be able to freely move outside collective centres, including to access markets and livelihood opportunities (*Mission report SR IDPs A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para 89*);

▶ Many thousands of internally displaced persons are living in territories controlled by non-State armed groups and ISIL and in besieged areas with little or no access to humanitarian assistance. Recognising security issues, it is nevertheless imperative to ensure that assistance is provided to the fullest extent possible to internally displaced persons in areas not held by the Government (*Mission report SR IDPs A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para 92*);

▶ Strengthen its cooperation with national and international non-governmental

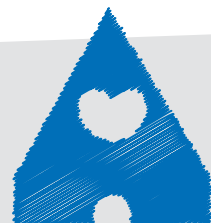
organisations in providing assistance to internally displaced persons and to increase shelter options for the displaced (*UPR 109.196 Russian Federation, 109.198 Islamic Republic of Iran*).

IV. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

▶ Freedom of movement of internally displaced persons and their ability to access safe locations must be guaranteed in practice (*Mission report SR IDPs A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para 94*);

▶ Male internally displaced persons must not be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or other violations of their human rights, including when seeking to cross checkpoints. Family separation is a major concern and leaves women and children vulnerable. All efforts should be taken to maintain family unity and, while legitimate security concerns may be addressed, any systematic or long-term separation of men from their families without due cause or legal process must be prohibited (*Mission report SR IDPs A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para 95*);

▶ Ensure that internally displaced persons are documented on a voluntary basis to the fullest extent possible. Where they have lost essential identity documents required for their freedom of movement and access to services [...], all necessary measures should be taken to rapidly replace them, including issuing temporary documents, to avoid putting them at risk. Measures should be taken to ensure that births are registered in order to avoid statelessness (*Mission report SR IDPs A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para 86*).



III. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS



I. PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS AND CIVILIAN OBJECTS

- ▶ Cease all violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, including indiscriminate attacks on medical workers and facilities, schools, civilian infrastructure and the civilian population (*UPR 109.97-98 Rwanda, Slovenia, 109.107 Italy, 109.108 Luxembourg, 109.110 New Zealand, 109.100 Argentina, 109.104 to 106 Georgia, Hungary, Iceland, 109.113 Uruguay, 109.115 Finland, 109.116 Germany, 109.137 Ecuador*);
- ▶ Immediately comply with its obligations under international law and abolish the use of illegal weapons (*UPR 109.95 Portugal*);
- ▶ Comply with its binding legal obligation to protect citizens, desist from using illegal arms and adopt the necessary measures so that, in line with the report of the Commission of Inquiry, the indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks on the civilian population cease immediately (*UPR 109.114 Costa Rica*);
- ▶ Fulfil its obligations, including under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and international humanitarian

law, and cease all deliberate, indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks against civilians (*UPR 109.118 Australia*);

- ▶ Take all measures to protect civilians, especially women and children, and cease the use of explosive weapons in populated areas (*UPR 109.101 Botswana*);
- ▶ Protect civilians and civilian infrastructure, in accordance with international humanitarian law and customary international law, and stop its indiscriminate aerial bombardments, including the use of barrel bombs (*UPR 109.99 Sweden*);
- ▶ Stop and investigate military operations targeting civilians and their facilities, especially in Aleppo (*UPR 109.96 Republic of Korea, 109.112 Norway*);
- ▶ Step up measures to bring an end to attacks against hospitals and their personnel, humanitarian and health units, and humanitarian convoys, and bring perpetrators to justice (*UPR 109.100 Argentina, 109.111 Spain, 109.117 Ghana, 109.122 Australia*);
- ▶ Take prompt measures to halt attacks against medical facilities and personnel by



all parties to the conflict, and investigate, prosecute and sanction those responsible for illegal attacks under international humanitarian and human rights law (*CRC CO para 37.a; CEDAW CO para 40.a*);

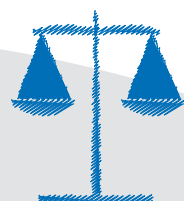
- ▶ Take all necessary measures to avoid the bombing of medical units, respect the principle of medical neutrality and grant special protection to medical units as allowed by international law (*UPR 109.104-109.117 Ghana, 109.121 Angola*);
- ▶ Step up efforts for the protection of schools with a view to ensuring that education may continue (*UPR 109.195 Argentina*);
- ▶ Immediately cease all attacks on schools, take prompt measures to ensure that all parties to the conflict respect international humanitarian and human rights law and respect schools as protected objects and enact legislation and issue military directives prohibiting and sanctioning attacks against schools and their use for military purposes (*CRC CO para 44.b, CEDAW CO para 40.a*);
- ▶ Authorise and facilitate the medical evacuation of civilians (*UPR 109.119 Brazil*);
- ▶ Non-State armed groups and extremist and listed terrorist groups must take responsibility for the protection of civilian populations, including internally displaced persons, who fall under their authority and take all measures to

ensure their security and access to humanitarian assistance (*Mission report SR IDPs A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para 102*);

- ▶ Allow for the free and unimpeded access of human rights observers, humanitarian organisations, medical teams and ambulances to affected areas (*UPR 109.142 Iceland*).

II. DETENTION/DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY

- ▶ Take legislative and concrete measures to prevent the use of torture and bring to justice those responsible for such violations (*UPR 109.162 Switzerland, 109.166 Holy See*);
- ▶ Put an end to enforced disappearances and torture in all places of deprivation of liberty, as well as extrajudicial executions (*UPR 109.152 Luxembourg*);
- ▶ Investigate and hold to account persons involved in cases of enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and acts of corruption or extortion associated therewith, and communicate the findings of such investigations to the victims' families (*UPR 109.154 Brazil*);
- ▶ Inform families about the whereabouts of persons in detention facilities and regularly publish lists of detainees who have died in detention facilities operated



by the Government and militias affiliated with it (*UPR 109.174 Austria*);

▶ Publish a list of all detainees in places under its control, together with information on the grounds for their detention (*UPR 109.175 Brazil*);

▶ Ensure that adequate medical care is available to all persons in detention facilities maintained by the Government and militias affiliated with it (*UPR 109.171 Austria*);

▶ Allow independent and impartial international observers and monitors regular and unannounced access to all detention facilities (*CEDAW CO para 30.e*);

▶ Ensure that reported instances of intimidation, harassment, physical attacks and arbitrary arrest of human rights defenders or civil society activists working on children's rights are promptly and independently investigated, and that those responsible for such abuse are held accountable (*CRC CO para 15.b*);

▶ Immediately release human rights defenders and other prisoners of conscience, particularly those detained and imprisoned for participating in peaceful demonstrations since March 2011 (*UPR 109.167 Canada*);

▶ Ensure the prompt, impartial and effective investigation into and put a stop

to the arbitrary detention, harassment and persecution of human rights defenders (*UPR 109.189 Slovenia*).

III. HUMAN TRAFFICKING

▶ Expedite the adoption of the national plan to combat human trafficking; and continue its efforts to provide protection of and assistance to victims of trafficking and reintegration programmes, in cooperation with the United Nations (*CEDAW CO para 34.a, CRC CO para 54, UPR 109.188 Russian Federation*);

▶ Ensure the effective implementation of Law No. 3/2010 by issuing regulations to enable its operationalisation (*CEDAW CO para 34.b*);

▶ Prevent, prosecute and punish traffickers and perpetrators of related human rights violations occurring under its jurisdiction, whether perpetrated by public authorities or private actors, and adopt specific protection measures for women and girls, in particular those internally displaced or refugee women and girls (*CEDAW CO para 34.c*);

▶ Engage with neighbouring countries to reach bilateral or regional agreements and other forms of cooperation to prevent women and girls, in context of displacement, from



being trafficked; and, protect the rights of trafficked women and girls and facilitate the prosecution of perpetrators (CEDAW CO para 34.d).

IV. COUNTERTERRORISM

- ▶ Amend its Law on Combating Terrorism (Law No. 19/2012), in particular its definitions of terrorist acts, terrorist group and financing of terrorism to ensure that the Law is in conformity with the Convention and other international human rights instruments, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and that its scope does not, in practice, extend to activities which do not constitute terrorism (CEDAW CO para 30.d);
- ▶ Continue its combat against terrorism to restore security and stability to the Syrian Arab Republic and pave the way for the return of displaced persons to their homes (UPR 109.199 Islamic Republic of Iran);
- ▶ Join hands with the international community to prevent and fight terrorism (UPR 109.201 China);
- ▶ Develop programmes of compensation and reintegration for victims of terrorism (UPR 109.200 Russian Federation);
- ▶ Provide appropriate assistance and rehabilitation to the victims of terrorism according to relevant national laws and within the available resources (UPR 109.202 Democratic People's Republic of Korea).

V. ACCOUNTABILITY AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

- ▶ Ensure accountability for the systematic and widespread violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law (UPR 109.103 Czech Republic, 109.146 to 109.149 Portugal, Sweden, Canada, Luxembourg);
- ▶ Investigate and prosecute perpetrators of crimes under domestic and international law committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 (CRC CO para 21.i);
- ▶ Put into place guarantees, in particular public hearings and the right to appeal, including in the framework of the fight against terrorism, to ensure the right to a fair trial (UPR 109.203 Switzerland);
- ▶ Abolish legislative provisions that grant state officials immunity from prosecution, in particular Decrees 14/1969 and 69/2008 (CEDAW CO para 27.d);
- ▶ Guarantee the right to a fair trial to women who are before the Counterterrorism Court (CEDAW CO para 30.f);
- ▶ Take measures to effectively combat impunity and comply with its obligation to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish serious human rights violations and crimes perpetrated against women and girls by Government forces and affiliated militia and by non-State armed groups, in compliance with international standards (CEDAW CO para 8.c).



IV. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS



A. Access to basic services

▶ The right to food, health, education, water and sanitation, and to adequate housing must be provided to all without discrimination, as called for in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (*Mission report Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights A/HRC/39/54/Add.2, para73*);

▶ The Special Rapporteur calls upon the Government of Syria to meet to the best of its ability under the circumstances, the human rights of all Syrians without discrimination, as called for under the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Syrians have, among others, the right to food, adequate housing, safe water and sanitation, education and healthcare. The progressive realisation

of these rights will require the rebuilding of schools, medical facilities, water and electrical systems, and homes (*Mission report Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, A/HRC/39/54/Add.2, para 74*);

▶ Increase substantially its investment in social welfare policies to ensure that children living in poverty receive adequate financial support and free, accessible services without discrimination, and prioritise the provision of drinking water, sanitation and housing and the availability and affordability of food (*CRC CO para 42*);

▶ Increase access to electricity, basic sanitation and running water (*UPR 109.190 Maldives*).



B. Right to health

I. ACCESS TO HEALTH

- ▶ Increase the budgetary allocations to health, giving due priority to health infrastructure and restoration of services; and scale up its efforts for the reconstruction, rehabilitation and equipment of health facilities for children (*CRC CO para 37.b*);
- ▶ Strengthen its efforts to ensure access to health services for all children without discrimination, paying attention to areas again under State control and those under the control of non-State armed groups, and refrain from removing health items and medicine from convoys to besieged areas (*CRC CO para 37.c*);
- ▶ Strengthen its efforts to ensure the provision of vaccines and medicine to contain outbreaks of preventable diseases such as typhoid, acute diarrhoea and cholera and take the measures to combat child malnutrition, particularly stunting (*CRC CO para 37.d-e*);
- ▶ Concerned about the damage to the environment in the context of the armed conflict [...] the Committee recommends that the State party devise and implement a system of response and assistance to enhance protection of the population, especially children, and the environment (*CRC CO para 41*).

II. SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

- ▶ Adopt a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health policy for adolescents, and ensure that sexual and reproductive health education is part of the mandatory school curriculum and that information is available in health centres and spaces used by adolescents (*CRC CO para 40.a*);
- ▶ Develop and implement a policy to prevent teenage pregnancy, protect the rights of pregnant girls, adolescent mothers and their children, and combat discrimination against them, paying particular attention to girls forcibly married to fighters during the armed conflict (*CRC CO para 40.b*);
- ▶ Reinforce the health sector to prevent a further reduction of the already limited health services, including sexual and reproductive health services and information available to women as well as a further deterioration of their health status, taking due consideration to the Committee's General Recommendation No. 24 (1999) on women and health (*CEDAW CO para 40.d*);
- ▶ Prioritise access to maternal health care services, including skilled delivery services for pregnant women irrespective of their area of residence (*CEDAW CO para 40.e*);



▶ Expand the grounds on which abortion is permitted to include, in particular, cases of rape, and prepare guidelines on post-abortion care to ensure that women who are pregnant as a result of rape have free access to safe abortion services (*CEDAW CO para 40.f*).

III. MENTAL HEALTH

▶ Strengthen its efforts to provide mental health services to children at the primary and secondary care level throughout the territory, without discrimination and paying particular attention to children living in areas retaken by the State or previously under siege (*CRC CO para 39.a*);

▶ Increase the number of doctors and health workers trained to use the Mental Health Global Action Programme Intervention Guide, published by the World Health Organization, with a particular focus on children (*CRC CO para 39.b*);

▶ Prioritise access to counselling and therapy for children over the use of medication (*CRC CO para 39.c*);

▶ Encourage and facilitate access to mental-health services for children in areas controlled by non-State armed groups (*CRC CO para 39.d*);

▶ Continue to cooperate with the World Health Organization, among others, in this regard (*CRC CO para 39.e*).

C. Right to education

▶ Guarantee access to education and take effective steps to address the educational needs of all children (*UPR 109.182 Belgium, 109.192 Lao People's Republic, 109.193 Pakistan 109.194 Singapore; CRC CO 17.b*);

▶ Strengthen its efforts to improve the quality of education, ensure an adequate number of teachers and provide them with quality training, and prioritise the rehabilitation of schools in its

reconstruction efforts (*CRC CO para 44.a*);

▶ Take measures to remedy the harm caused to children by the attacks carried out against schools (*CRC CO para 44.c*);

▶ Continue taking measures to enable children's access to primary and secondary education, and measures to retain students in schools, which should include temporary



and transitional learning opportunities for children who missed years of schooling, with particular attention paid to children displaced by the armed conflict and children living in areas retaken by the State (*CRC CO para 44.d*);

▶ Support children living in areas under the control of non-State armed groups in gaining access to national examinations and receiving their education accreditation (*CRC CO para 44.e*);

▶ Develop programmes for conflict-affected girls who have dropped out from school, with a view to ensuring that they can be reintegrated into schools or universities once the conflict has come to an end (*CEDAW CO para 40.b*);

▶ Take the necessary measures, to enable children living under Kurdish-led authorities to have access to the national education curriculum and return to schools (*CRC CO para 44.f*);

▶ Ensure that curricula and other educational tools promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and prepare the child for a responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance and equality of sexes (*CRC CO para 45*);

▶ Coordinate efforts with relevant stakeholders to ensure that the Syrian standard curriculum is used in all schools where Syrian children, in particular girls are enrolled, including in neighbouring countries (*CEDAW CO para 40.c*).

D. Social cohesion

▶ Preserve its model of peaceful coexistence of different religious faiths and cultural identities, which was working so well in the Syrian Arab Republic until a few years ago; continue raising awareness about the dangers of excluding ideologies (*UPR 109.34 Nicaragua*);

▶ Continue efforts towards national reconciliation and national dialogue (*UPR 109.35 Nigeria, 109.66 Sudan, 109.78 Cuba*);

▶ Strengthen the deployment of specific measures to foster the rights of vulnerable social groups, including children, adolescents, women, refugees and internally displaced people, as well as persons with disabilities (*UPR 109.84 Ecuador*);

▶ “The Committee reminds the State party that during any reconstruction efforts it has the obligation to promote a culture of tolerance, peace and reconciliation among all communities (*CRC CO para 4*).



V. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



- ▶ Ensure immediate, full and unhindered humanitarian access (*109.38 Egypt, 109.39 Sweden, 109.124 to 109.138 Botswana, Rwanda, Japan, Maldives, Namibia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Norway, Uruguay, Thailand, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Georgia, 109.140 to 109.142 Ghana, Hungary, Iceland, 109.144 Luxembourg, 109.145 Mexico and 109.150 Australia, Mission report SR IDPs A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para 96, 100, 102; CEDAW CO para 10.a*);
- ▶ Allow for the effective, timely and unfettered delivery of humanitarian assistance, particularly in hard-to-reach and besieged areas (*UPR 109.102 Canada, 109.128 Namibia*);
- ▶ Immediately grant full and unconditional humanitarian access for the United Nations to the entire country, especially to the territories under siege by government forces (*UPR 109.139 Germany, 109.143 Latvia*);
- ▶ Avoid besieging, and ensure for the population access to food, basic services and medical assistance (*UPR 109.134 Uruguay*);
- ▶ The Committee calls upon non-State armed groups which have signed the declaration of

Commitment on compliance with International Humanitarian Law and the Facilitation of Humanitarian Assistance to abide by it in order to facilitate access of humanitarian aid to civilian population, in particular women and children (*Mission report SR IDPs A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para 102, CEDAW CO para 11*);

- ▶ Allow for the visit of humanitarian agents to all places of detention and protect humanitarian agents and medical personnel operating in areas that are under siege or hard to reach (*UPR 109.123 Brazil*);
- ▶ Continue to engage all international bodies which are involved in the implementation of humanitarian assistance, such as ICRC, the International Organization for Migration and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (*UPR 109.40 Indonesia*);
- ▶ [Humanitarian workers] must be protected and their work and operational capacity to assist internally displaced persons and other affected communities must be supported and enhanced (*Mission report of the Special Rapporteur on Internally Displaced Persons A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para 103*).

NOTE

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