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Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Lebanon

* * The annex to the present report is circulated as received

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its twenty-third session from 2 to 13 November 2015. The review of Lebanon was held at the 2nd meeting on 2 November 2015. The delegation of Lebanon was headed by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Lebanon in Geneva, H.E. Mrs. Najla RIACHI ASSAKER. At its 10th meeting held on 6 November 2015, the Working Group adopted the report on Lebanon.

2. On 13 January 2015, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Lebanon: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Indonesia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Lebanon:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/23/LBN/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/23/LBN/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/23/LBN/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Lebanon through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the UPR.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

To be completed by 20/11/15

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

[paragraph numbers will change after section I is completed]

5. The following recommendations will be examined by Lebanon which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the 31st session of the Human Rights Council in March 2016.

5.1. Ratify international instruments on human rights to which the country is not yet party (Côte d'Ivoire);

5.2. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro) (Poland) (Portugal) / Accede to the Second Optional Protocol of the ICPPR (Australia);

5.3. Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Italy);

- 5.4. Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and establish a de jure moratorium on the death penalty with the view of total abolition thereof (Namibia);
- 5.5. Ratify the Optional Protocol to ICESCR (Portugal);
- 5.6. Withdraw its reservations to CEDAW (Portugal, Slovenia, Croatia, Paraguay) / Take steps to withdraw its reservations to CEDAW (Namibia) / Lift the reservations to CEDAW (Republic of Korea) / Lift its reservation on Article 9 of CEDAW and allow women to pass the citizenship to their children (Norway) / Review all reservations to CEDAW, including the one related to article 9.2, with a view to withdraw them (Uruguay);
- 5.7. Withdraw all its reservations to CEDAW (Luxembourg);
- 5.8. Consider withdrawal of its reservations to CEDAW (Latvia);
- 5.9. Take further measures to eradicate discrimination against women, as prescribed by Article 3 of the ICCPR, by considering the withdrawal of its reservation to Article 9 of the CEDAW and allowing women to pass on citizenship to their children in the same manner as men (Sweden);
- 5.10. Review current legislation and amend as necessary all discriminatory provisions against women and lift all reservations to CEDAW (Germany);
- 5.11. Ratify the Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Estonia) (Honduras) Paraguay);
- 5.12. Consider the possibility of ratifying the OP-CRC-AC (Panama);
- 5.13. Ratify the ICRMW (Senegal) (Honduras) (Madagascar) (Sierra Leone);
- 5.14. Take steps toward accession to ICRMW (Philippines);
- 5.15. Ratify ICPPED (Uruguay) (Argentina) (Sierra Leone);
- 5.16. Establish a legal framework and a national commission of inquiry on missing persons, and ratify the Convention for the Protection of All Persons against Enforced Disappearance (France);
- 5.17. Ratify CRPD (Sierra Leone) (Honduras) (Portugal) / Conclude the ratification process of CRPD (Turkey) / Expedite the necessary process to ratify CRPD (Thailand) / Facilitate ratification of CRPD (Republic of Korea);
- 5.18. Positively consider ratifying CRPD to fully ensure the rights of persons with disabilities to education, employment and their participation in political and public life (China);
- 5.19. Ratify CRPD and effectively implement the national plan in order to make the education system open to children with disabilities (Italy);
- 5.20. Ratify CRPD and its Optional Protocol, and promote the awareness of the society and institutions on the right to equality and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities in all areas of life (Mexico);
- 5.21. Sign and ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC (France) / Ratify the Rome Statute (Switzerland) (Paraguay) (Austria) (Costa Rica) / Take all necessary steps towards acceding to the Rome Statute of the ICC (Cyprus) / Accede to and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the ICC (Latvia) / Accede to and implement the Rome Statute of the ICC in national legislation (Poland);

- 5.22. **Accede to and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the ICC and accede to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the Court (Estonia);**
- 5.23. **Ratify various international human rights statutes and conventions, including the Rome Statute of the ICC, CRPD, and the ILO Conventions Nos. 87, 169 and 189 (Ghana);**
- 5.24. **Take steps toward accession to ILO Convention 189 (Philippines);**
- 5.25. **Ratify ILO Convention No. 87 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize, and implement it to ensure the right of all workers to freely organize (Sweden);**
- 5.26. **Sign and ratify the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its Additional Protocol and ensure their effective implementation at the national level (Belgium);**
- 5.27. **Ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951 and its 1967 Protocol (Uruguay) (Iceland) / Promote the ratification of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Paraguay);**
- 5.28. **Accede to the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity (Uruguay);**
- 5.29. **Consider enacting, in consultation with civil society, an optional civil code that takes into account Lebanon's international human rights obligations (United States of America);**
- 5.30. **Amend its legislation so that it treats equally all women and men with respect to marriage, divorce and inheritance rights as well as conferring citizenship to their children and spouses (Czech Republic);**
- 5.31. **Amend personal status laws and develop a comprehensive policy at the national level, consistent with the CEDAW, to ensure that women are treated in the same way as men in issues related to child custody, inheritance and divorce (Canada);**
- 5.32. **Reform the nationality law to give women the capacity to acquire, retain and transfer citizenship on an equal basis with men and to bring the law into compliance with international human rights standards (Kenya);**
- 5.33. **Pass laws that aim at ensuring equal treatment of women, in issues related to child custody, inheritance and divorce (Netherlands);**
- 5.34. **Criminalize torture in accordance with Article 1 of CAT and combat impunity in this field (Belgium);**
- 5.35. **Define and criminalize torture as a matter of priority and amend its legislation accordingly (Turkey);**
- 5.36. **Amend relevant national legislation in line with the Convention against Torture (Hungary);**
- 5.37. **Adopt laws to increase the age of criminal responsibility and to eliminate child early and forced marriage (Sierra Leone);**
- 5.38. **Make it easier for displaced persons in Lebanon, and their children, to obtain legal status in order to prevent any violation of fundamental rights recognised in treaties to which Lebanon is party; and develop a legal framework defining and protecting the rights and freedoms of those individuals**

(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

5.39. Develop a specific legal framework defining and protecting rights and freedoms of refugees and amend the 1962 Law on Entry and Exit with a view to de-penalise the illegal entry or presence of asylum-seekers and refugees registered by UNHCR (Norway);

5.40. Amend its legislation to ensure that Palestinians in Lebanon have the right to inherit and register property, including the right to own land, as previously recommended (Finland);

5.41. Continue making efforts to protect the rights of older persons (Saudi Arabia);

5.42. Establish an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Sierra Leone);

5.43. Create a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Hungary);

5.44. Establish a National Institution for Human Rights in accordance with the Paris Principles (Namibia);

5.45. Speed up the establishment of the National Independent Commission for Human Rights which includes the establishment of a permanent national committee to prevent torture, in accordance with the Optional Protocol of CAT (Bahrain);

5.46. Strengthen the institutional framework for human rights by establishing a national institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Spain);

5.47. Move expeditiously to establish a national institution for human rights in accordance with the Paris Principles (Australia);

5.48. Continue efforts to set up the National Human Rights Institution (Sudan);

5.49. Continue efforts aiming at establishing the independent national human rights institution (Egypt);

5.50. Redouble its efforts in finalizing the establishment of an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);

5.51. Hasten the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution (Nigeria);

5.52. Continue its efforts to establish an independent national human rights institution (Oman);

5.53. Finalize the procedure to establish an NHRI in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Portugal);

5.54. Take the necessary steps to establish the National Human Rights Institution (Jordan);

5.55. Consider the establishment of an independent mechanism for children and provide it with necessary human and financial resources (Slovakia);

5.56. Implement in full the Optional Protocol to the Convention against

Torture and Other Cruel and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment, which Lebanon acceded to in 2008, in particular by establishing a national preventative mechanism as a matter of priority (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

5.57. **Establish a national mechanism to prevent torture competent to visit detention centres and monitor the situation of detainees (Costa Rica);**

5.58. **Establish a National Prevention Mechanism in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark);**

5.59. **Establish without delay a national preventive mechanism in accordance with OP-CAT with adequate personnel and financial resources for its effective and independent work (Czech Republic);**

5.60. **Ensure that the legislation for establishing the National Preventative Mechanism is in line with the Optional Protocol of the CAT (Canada);**

5.61. **Initiate national consultations, involving representatives from civil society organizations and human rights defenders, in order to adopt and implement a national system to prevent and fight against torture and all forms of ill-treatment, in line with recommendations submitted by the CAT and the obligation to establish an National Preventive Mechanism, as contained in OP-CAT (Brazil);**

5.62. **Provide all the material and human means to ensure the success of the National Human Rights Plan which was ratified by Parliament for the period 2014-2019 (United Arab Emirates);**

5.63. **Continue its ongoing efforts in adopting various national human rights policies based on the National Human Rights Plan 2014-2019, including by providing the necessary budgetary requirements for the actual implementation of those policies (Indonesia);**

5.64. **Continue its positive efforts in ensuring effective implementation of its National Human Rights Plan, including by seeking necessary technical and financial assistance (Malaysia);**

5.65. **Continue making practical steps aimed at the development of the institutional and human rights infrastructure to better implement its human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law (Ukraine);**

5.66. **Continue efforts to maintain its achievements made in the field of human rights (Bangladesh);**

5.67. **Request from the international community all necessary aid and technical assistance to enable Lebanon to meet its international commitments on human rights (Côte d'Ivoire);**

5.68. **Continue to strengthen national human rights mechanisms to protect the most vulnerable sectors of society (Bahrain);**

5.69. **Continue its efforts to spread the culture of human rights across the school curriculum and public awareness campaigns (Yemen);**

5.70. **Continue to mainstream human rights through training and awareness-raising programs in all relevant sectors (Egypt);**

5.71. **Consider developing Human Rights Indicators, as an important**

instrument that allows for a more precise and coherent evaluation of national human rights policies (Portugal);

5.72. Promote the training of the personnel of the public sector in the field of human rights (Iran (Islamic Republic of));

5.73. That the international community support Lebanon (Kuwait);

5.74. Continue its constant support to the human rights issues and provide support to the humanitarian efforts (Kuwait);

5.75. Consider the possibility of establishing a national system to follow up international recommendations (Paraguay);

5.76. Consider establishing a permanent inter-ministerial committee responsible for the implementation of its international human rights obligations (Portugal);

5.77. Continue submitting periodic reports to the treaty bodies Lebanon is party to (Iraq);

5.78. Effectively implement Act No. 293 and amend relevant provisions in family law in order to ensure equality between women and men (Italy);

5.79. Continue to promote gender equality and the involvement of women in public services (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

5.80. Continue to implement the National Strategy for Women (2011-2021) for promoting women's development (Pakistan);

5.81. Redouble its efforts to eradicate all forms of gender discrimination, particularly on issues such as marriage, adultery, rape and abortion, and guarantee the right of women to property, inheritance and unrestricted disposition of their estate (Uruguay);

5.82. Adopt appropriate policies and additionally promote gender equality in public affairs as well as enforce strict sanctions against all kinds of discrimination and abuse of women's rights (Serbia);

5.83. Further measures aimed at achieving effective gender equality (Chile);

5.84. Redouble efforts to promote the status of women (Djibouti);

5.85. Continue with efforts to empower women economically, politically and socially, and take all necessary measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women (Croatia);

5.86. Implement action-oriented measures to strengthen protection and promotion of women's rights in the areas of health and combating violence against women (Singapore);

5.87. Pursue efforts to promote and protect the rights of women through the implementation of the National Strategy for Women (Algeria);

5.88. Continue its efforts to eliminate discrimination against women in law and in practice, by amending the legislation on personal status and nationality as well as the Criminal Code (Spain);

5.89. Redouble its efforts to advance women's rights, including by improving legal systems regulating marriage and family relations in a way that eliminates discrimination against women (Republic of Korea);

- 5.90. Continue its policy of tolerance and diversity among the different ethnic and religious groups (Armenia);
- 5.91. Modify the definition of domestic violence in law in order to better protect women against sexual, economical and psychological violence (Togo);
- 5.92. Adopt the draft law on the marriage of minors (Congo);
- 5.93. Repeal Articles 487, 488, 522 and 534 of the Penal Code (Slovenia);
- 5.94. Ensure maximum attention to the protection and enjoyment of equal rights for the LGBTI population (Chile);
- 5.95. Decriminalise homosexuality and ensure non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Norway);
- 5.96. Promote the protection of the LGBTI community (Spain);
- 5.97. Secure the human rights of LGBT persons by amending Article 534 of the Lebanese Penal Code and by codifying a protection against the discrimination of LGBT persons into law (Sweden);
- 5.98. Reform existing laws that can be used to discriminate against LGBTI persons, including article 534 of the Lebanese Penal Code criminalising “sexual acts against nature” (Austria) / Repeal article 534 of the Penal Code (Spain) / Repeal Article 534 of the Lebanese Penal Code, which criminalizes homosexuality, and pass legislation to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Canada) / Revise article 534 of the Penal Code so that its scope is clearly defined and that it does not discriminate against persons on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity (Czech Republic);
- 5.99. Ensure that the security forces, including the military, are governed, during peaceful demonstrations, by the United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials (Costa Rica);
- 5.100. Take the necessary measures to effectively regulate the acquisition and possession of firearms (Uruguay);
- 5.101. Abolish de jure the death penalty (France);
- 5.102. Abolish the capital punishment in all cases and in all circumstances (Portugal);
- 5.103. Establish a de jure moratorium on the death penalty and commute all the death sentences with a view to its abolition (Switzerland);
- 5.104. Abolish death penalty for all crimes and meanwhile put in place a de jure moratorium on executions, as provided by five resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the UN , including the most recent resolution 69/186 of 18 December 2014 (Belgium);
- 5.105. Establish a moratorium with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Sierra Leone);
- 5.106. Establish an immediate de jure moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Luxembourg);
- 5.107. Transform the de-facto moratorium on the death penalty into an official moratorium with a view to fully abolishing the death penalty (Germany);

- 5.108. **Declare an official moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to its abolition from the penal code and commute the sentences of prisoners already sentenced to death (Ireland);**
- 5.109. **Replace the de facto moratorium with a de jure moratorium, to commute all death sentences, and stay all executions (Norway);**
- 5.110. **Continue efforts in addressing the problem of missing persons (Cyprus);**
- 5.111. **Put an end to the practice of torture, criminalize all acts of torture, ensure that all allegations are duly investigated and the perpetrators are prosecuted and punished thereby fully applying CAT and its Optional Protocol (Switzerland);**
- 5.112. **Improve prison conditions by strengthening preventive measures to protect prisoners from ill-treatment and torture and investigating allegations of abuse (United States of America);**
- 5.113. **Introduce national legislation that criminalizes all forms of torture and ill treatment, that Lebanon prosecutes perpetrators of torture, and imposes judicial sentences that correspond to the gravity of torture crimes committed (Netherlands);**
- 5.114. **Comply with the Convention against Torture, criminalise all forms of torture and ill-treatment; ensure places of detention under its control are subject to open and transparent scrutiny by bodies independent of government and undertake prompt and impartial investigations of allegations of torture (Australia);**
- 5.115. **Provide comprehensive and effective protection against cases of torture and accountability of perpetrators, in particular for persons in detention or prison facilities (Holy See);**
- 5.116. **Take urgent, strong and coordinated action at all levels to eradicate torture, punish perpetrators, compensate victims and ensure effective legal safeguards for all persons deprived of their liberty (Ireland);**
- 5.117. **Take the appropriate legislative measures in order to incorporate into national law the provisions of the Convention against Torture and its optional protocol for the purpose of ensuring its effective implementation (Luxembourg);**
- 5.118. **Incorporate the provisions of the Convention against Torture into domestic laws, and implement the recommendations of the Committee against Torture following the inquiry mission to Lebanon (Germany);**
- 5.119. **Adopt a law on the general prohibition of torture based on a comprehensive definition of torture in conformity with CAT and providing for adequate assistance to victims as well as- for victims' access to redress and compensation (Austria);**
- 5.120. **Take appropriate steps to address acts of torture of all persons, including migrants in detention, and to tackle the phenomenon of child labour and ensure that all children of school going age have unimpeded access to education (Ghana);**
- 5.121. **Promote the welfare of detainees, and continue with the reforms necessary for the protection of their rights by improving conditions in detention facilities and continuous staff training (Ecuador);**

- 5.122. **Take all measures necessary to accelerate its criminal justice procedure and improve the conditions of its prisons and detentions centres, including the elimination of overcrowding (Japan);**
- 5.123. **Put an end to unlimited detention on remand and free all persons detained without official accusation and trial (Switzerland);**
- 5.124. **End arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment, including violence committed by the police and the armed forces; fight effectively against the impunity of the perpetrators of such acts (France);**
- 5.125. **Enforce the 2014 Law to Protect Women and all Members of the Family from Family Violence, criminalize marital rape, and ensure that marriage to the victim does not exempt a sexual offender from punishment (Canada);**
- 5.126. **Continue its efforts to combat domestic violence, sexual harassment and exploitation of women, in particular adolescents, women heads of households without a partner and girls with children (Colombia);**
- 5.127. **Harmonize Law 293 on domestic violence to ensure it is in line with CEDAW, and allocate human, institutional and financial resources for its proper implementation (Honduras);**
- 5.128. **Criminalize marital rape and establish a common minimum age for marriage at 18 years old (Slovenia);**
- 5.129. **Adopt and implement all necessary measures to effectively prevent domestic violence and gender-based homicides (Panama);**
- 5.130. **Ban child marriage (Holy See);**
- 5.131. **Ban child marriages and amend Law 422 of 2002 on the protection of minors in conflict with the law in order to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility in compliance with international standards (Czech Republic);**
- 5.132. **Adopt a draft law on the marriage of minors (Djibouti);**
- 5.133. **Develop a strategy to combat child labour (Sierra Leone);**
- 5.134. **Implement measures to fight against child labour (France);**
- 5.135. **Take adequate measures to ensure full compatibility of national legislation with the provisions and principles of the CRC and its Optional Protocols (Slovakia);**
- 5.136. **Further strengthen measures to protect children and women from all forms of violence (Sri Lanka);**
- 5.137. **Improve the harmonization of national legislation with that of the CRC, in particular the legal status of corporal punishment of children and provisions on the minimum age of criminal responsibility (Croatia);**
- 5.138. **Prohibit all corporal punishment of children, including in the home and all other settings, and explicitly repeal the right to discipline children according to “general custom” in the Penal Law (Estonia);**
- 5.139. **Continued efforts of the Lebanese Government to improve the functioning of the education system, including by advancing the enrolment and by protecting street children from the worst forms of child labour (Albania);**
- 5.140. **Progress on measures to provide psychological and specialized**

medical services for children victims of abuse, and continue fighting the worst forms of child labour (Colombia);

5.141. Enhance promotion and protection of the rights of the child, including measures against sexual and labour exploitation (Japan);

5.142. Continue strengthening legal and policy protections which guarantee the rights of the child, in line with the provisions of the CRC and its Optional Protocols (Serbia);

5.143. Identify, protect and support victims of trafficking and forced labour (Australia);

5.144. Continue efforts on achieving gender equality and fighting against human trafficking (Greece);

5.145. Continue intensifying the efforts aimed at combatting trafficking in person and guarantee the protection of victims (Jordan);

5.146. Pursue and enhance efforts to combat human trafficking as well as raising awareness as to the threat posed by this scourge and protect its victims (Qatar);

5.147. Adopt a National Action Plan on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and pursue measures aimed at preventing trafficking and providing appropriate protection to victims (Republic of Moldova);

5.148. Continue efforts to strengthen equality between men and women and in combatting trafficking in persons (Russian Federation);

5.149. Improve the conditions for fair trial by introducing reforms to limit the Military Tribunal's jurisdiction to members of the armed forces and enhance the independence of the judiciary (Hungary);

5.150. Raise the age of criminal responsibility to 12 years (Slovenia);

5.151. Raise the age of criminal responsibility of children from 7 to 12 years, as recommended by CRC (Montenegro);

5.152. Continue making progress towards a more efficient functioning of government institutions, continuing the fight against corruption and promoting transparency (Holy See);

5.153. Further improve its birth registration system and ensure that this system is accessible to all children born in Lebanon (Turkey);

5.154. Take legal and administrative steps to ensure that every refugee child born in Lebanon is properly registered by the authorities and issued with the documents to prove it, without prejudice to the question of permanent residency or acquisition of citizenship (Austria);

5.155. Amend the Nationality Law to ensure that women have the right to pass on their nationality to their children and husband (Denmark);

5.156. Provide opportunities for women to pass on Lebanese citizenship and withdraw all reservations to CEDAW (France);

5.157. Make the necessary legislative amendments to allow all children born in Lebanon to be entitled to the legal recognition through their birth registration (Mexico);

- 5.158. Strengthen the measures to ensure a safe environment for the activities of human rights defenders (Colombia);
- 5.159. Safeguard the democratic nature of Lebanon, as prescribed by Article 25 of the ICCPR, by carrying out local elections as planned, without delay, as well as by urgently facilitating the appointment of a president and the holding of a parliamentary election (Sweden);
- 5.160. Adopt a national action plan to encourage women's participation in political and public life (Italy);
- 5.161. Implement the necessary policies to encourage women to participate in political and public life (Mexico);
- 5.162. That the Ministry of Labour accelerate passing the executive decrees of the Labour Law to facilitate access to employment for Palestinians and open the prospect of work in all professional fields (State of Palestine);
- 5.163. Establish a monitoring mechanism to prevent abuse, guarantee decent working conditions and wage payments (Madagascar);
- 5.164. Ensure equal rights to all workers in the country in accordance with international standards (Nigeria);
- 5.165. Pursue efforts to ensure that labour relations between workers and employers are in line with international labour standards (Iraq);
- 5.166. Work towards additional efforts to promote economic and social rights; to enhance in particular the right to work, education, health and housing (Saudi Arabia);
- 5.167. Consider amending legislation, which limit Palestinian refugees from owning property, considering the suffering of our people there and facilitate their lives and meet their human needs, with emphasis on the right to return as one of the basic rights to the Palestinian refugees (State of Palestine);
- 5.168. Continue taking further steps at the legislative level, that take into consideration the recent developments and the economic and social conditions of vulnerable families and provide better protection for children (Libya);
- 5.169. Pursue further efforts in order to further bolster economic, social and cultural rights and support the implementation of programmes and national related plans (Qatar);
- 5.170. Continue consolidating the national policies to combat poverty and social exclusion in favour of the most vulnerable sectors (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 5.171. Continue implementing the program of support for the poorest families as a means to combat poverty (Cuba);
- 5.172. Continue the search for measures to address the high cost of health services and the existing quality disparity in the market for such services (Cuba);
- 5.173. Make primary education compulsory, free and accessible to all children (Togo);
- 5.174. Pursue efforts to provide education for all people residing in the Lebanese territory (Algeria);
- 5.175. Continue efforts to establish a free and compulsory quality education

for all children up to the age of 15 (Congo);

5.176. **Continue its efforts to establish a free and compulsory quality education for children up to the age of 15 years (Djibouti);**

5.177. **Ensure equitable and sustainable resources to education (Slovakia);**

5.178. **Improve access to quality education, health and social services, in particular for children and women (Italy);**

5.179. **Strengthen and expand the education infrastructure in order to offer quality inclusive education to all children on its territory (Slovenia);**

5.180. **Pursue efforts to promote the quality of education and to establish mandatory free education for all (Madagascar);**

5.181. **Guarantee free, obligatory, and quality education for all children (Maldives);**

5.182. **Further develop, exponentially and progressively, free and compulsory quality education for all children up to 15 years of age (Panama);**

5.183. **Continue to implement the National Plan for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities (Pakistan);**

5.184. **Ensure the effective implementation of the National Plan for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities, especially regarding access to education and employment (Finland);**

5.185. **Further strengthen efforts to improve the lives of persons with disabilities, including by developing and implementing policy instruments to meet the education needs of children with disabilities (Singapore);**

5.186. **Ensure that the National Plan for Integration of Persons with Disabilities has the necessary human, institutional and financial resources for its effective implementation (Honduras);**

5.187. **Continue to realize the rights of persons with disabilities, including their right to education, in the framework of the National Plan for the Social Integration of persons with restricted capacities which it has adopted (Russian Federation);**

5.188. **Take further steps to ensure the protection of persons with disabilities (Greece);**

5.189. **Continue its efforts to protect persons with disabilities including awareness-raising campaigns about the rights of people with disabilities (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

5.190. **Strengthen measures towards the integration of children with disabilities into formal education mechanisms (Maldives);**

5.191. **Implement policies focused on the integration of children with special needs into the public education system, adapt buildings, and provide training to teachers and educational staff to promote an enabling and inclusive environment for education (Canada);**

5.192. **Intensify efforts to integrate persons with special needs in schools (Oman);**

5.193. **Continue to strengthen the educational system and to ensure equal access of disabled children to education (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

- 5.194. **Abolish the “kafala” sponsorship system with regard to migrant domestic workers (Denmark);**
- 5.195. **Take into particular consideration the vulnerable situation of migrants and refugees in the country, in particular women and children (Nicaragua);**
- 5.196. **Engage constructively with international and regional partners to secure support for programs aimed at providing humanitarian assistance to migrants and refugees (Philippines);**
- 5.197. **Amend the Labour Code to extend legal protection to domestic workers equal to that afforded to other workers and reform the visa sponsorship system so that workers can terminate employment without sponsor consent (United States of America);**
- 5.198. **Improve the legal situation of migrant workers (Austria);**
- 5.199. **Further strengthen the promotion and protection of rights of foreign workers (Bangladesh);**
- 5.200. **End the sponsorship system for migrant domestic workers (France);**
- 5.201. **Amend the labour code and visa sponsorship system to accord the necessary legal protection to migrant domestic workers on an equal footing with other workers (Kenya);**
- 5.202. **Take necessary measures to ensure that effective protection against discrimination in all aspects of their employment is provided to all migrant domestic workers (Albania);**
- 5.203. **Remove the discriminatory restrictions on access to the labour market for Palestinian refugees (Iceland);**
- 5.204. **Strengthen efforts to improve the well-being of women migrant workers in Lebanon and their rights (Sri Lanka);**
- 5.205. **Improve the situation of the foreign workers including female domestic workers as they constitute a vulnerable group (Senegal);**
- 5.206. **Take legal and administrative measures to guarantee the principle of non-refoulement and the adequate and fair treatment for those requesting international protection (Argentina);**
- 5.207. **Continue the cooperation with international organizations and donor countries to find solutions to the problems of the refugees (Armenia);**
- 5.208. **Continue to enhance domestic legal frameworks promoting the human rights, security and well-being of refugees and migrants in Lebanon (Philippines);**
- 5.209. **Consider developing a comprehensive domestic legal framework on the treatment of asylum seekers and refugees with a view to better ensure their basic human rights and living conditions (Republic of Korea);**
- 5.210. **Establish specific legal provisions in order to define and protect the rights and freedoms of refugees (Congo);**
- 5.211. **Pursue its efforts to put an end to remaining discriminations against women and Palestinian refugees (Belgium);**
- 5.212. **Put in place measures to protect refugees and asylum-seeking women**

and girls from economic and sexual exploitation, gender-based violence, including sexual abuse, as well as child and forced marriage and discrimination (Thailand);

5.213. Ensure the full protection of refugees and displaced persons by strengthening the appropriate mechanisms of attention to safeguard optimal standards in their living conditions (Ecuador);

5.214. Promote the registration of Syrian refugees by the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in order for the international community to help Lebanon to cope with this humanitarian crisis and to allow the return of Syrians in the country when peace returns. Promote refugee access to livelihoods (France);

5.215. Improve the situation of refugees by facilitating their registration and by renewing residency permits; by setting up an effective mechanism for birth registration to avoid statelessness of newborn children; and by allowing refugees, including Palestinian refugees, access to segments of the official labour market (Germany);

5.216. Continue its laudable efforts to give shelter to refugees and, through the involvement of UNHCR, to provide an effective administrative system for their registration and protection (Holy See);

5.217. Strengthen the efforts to ensure the protection and dignity of Syrian refugees, especially with regard to health care, access to education and protection of children, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities in situation of risk (Chile);

5.218. Continue efforts in the fight against terrorism including assistance to victims of terrorism (Armenia);

5.219. Continue to fight firmly against terrorism so as to provide security guarantees to the people of Lebanon to enjoy all human rights (China).

6. Lebanon considers that the recommendations below cannot be accepted and would thus be noted.

6.1. Take concrete steps to guarantee gender equality and abolish all means of gender-based violence (Israel);

6.2. Take concrete steps to assure freedom of expression and to guarantee the protection of peaceful protesters (Israel).

7. Lebanon considers that the recommendations 6.1 and 6.2 cannot be accepted, because Lebanon does not recognize Israel, and considers that they are submitted by an occupying power to part of the Lebanese territory.

8. 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 Lebanon was headed by H.E. Mrs. Najla RIACHI ASSAKER, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Lebanon in Geneva and composed of the following members:

Mr. Rayan SAID – Deputy Permanent Representative at the Permanent Mission of Lebanon in Geneva;

Mr. Ahmad ARAFA – Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Lebanon in Geneva;

Ms. Rana EL KHOURY – First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Lebanon in Geneva;

Judge Mrs. Marleine AL JOR – Representative of the Ministry of Justice;

Judge Mrs. Nazek AL KHATIB – Representative of the Ministry of Justice;

Colonel Mr. Ziad KAED BAY – Representative of the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities;

Captain Mr. Talal YOUSSEF – Representative of the Ministry and Interior and Municipalities;

Mr. Fadi KARAM – Representative of the National Commission of Lebanese Women.
