

## **Universal Review of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

### **Iceland's 1<sup>st</sup> Mid-term Report – Second Cycle**

Iceland submitted its second UPR report to the United Nations Human Rights Council in August 2016 and was reviewed by the Council in November 2016. In March 2017, Iceland accepted 133 of 167 recommendations received (A/HRC/34/7/Add.1).

Iceland believes that the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism is an important tool to promote the implementation and protection of human rights in all countries. Therefore, Iceland has been an active participant in the UPR process since the beginning of the first cycle in 2008.

A special Governmental Steering Committee on Human Rights consisting of representatives from all ministries was established in 2017. The Committee's aim is to increase cooperation and coordination when it comes to human rights. One of the main roles of the Steering Committee is to follow up on the UPR recommendations, as well as the recommendations from UN treaty bodies.

In order to get a better overview of the follow up and implementation on the recommendations Iceland received and accepted during the second UPR cycle, the Governmental Steering Committee on Human Rights decided to conduct a mid-term review. This Mid-term Report covers the period from November 2016 to January 2020.

The Governmental Steering Committee on Human Rights regularly consults and cooperates with civil society and has held annual consultation meetings with human rights organisations, in cooperation with the Icelandic Human Rights Centre. An open civil society meeting on the UPR recommendations was held in late 2017. In their work on the mid-term review the Steering Committee on Human Rights furthermore consulted with the Icelandic Human Rights Centre. Due to time constraints and unforeseen circumstances in society, there was unfortunately no further consultation with civil society specifically on the Mid-term Report. The Icelandic Government, however, hopes that this report will become a good basis for an active discussion with civil society before the submission of Iceland's third report under the Universal Periodic Review.

No.	Recommendation	Country	IS- Follow up status 2020
115.1.	Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.	Turkey Estonia Georgia Lebanon Portugal	Iceland ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture in February 2019.  To prepare the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, the Act on the Parliamentary Ombudsman was amended to give the Ombudsman the role of a National Prevention Mechanism.
115.2.	Expedite action on the ratification process of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.	Ghana	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.1.
115.3.	Accelerate the process towards the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture	Greece	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.1.
115.4.	Promptly ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	Guatemala	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.1.
115.5.	Ratify as soon as possible the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture; Ratify as soon as possible the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.	Germany Slovenia	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.1.
115.6.	Conclude its own procedures to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	Italy	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.1.

115.7.	Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and establish the National torture Preventive Mechanism.	Ukraine	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.1.
115.8.	Establish without delay an effective well-resourced and staffed national preventive mechanism according to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.	Czech Republic	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.1.
115.9.	Ratify and implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture at the earliest possible time.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.1.
115.10.	Widen the scope of international obligations through ratification of international treaties such as the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.	Albania	As to the part concerning the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.1.  As to the part concerning the Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the ratification of the Convention is currently under consideration.
115.11.	Make progress towards the ratification of pending human rights international instruments, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	Chile	Reference is made to the response to recommendations 115.1 and 115.10.
115.12.	Ratify the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.	Brazil	Reference is made to the response to recommendations 115.1 and 115.10.
115.13.	Ratify without delay the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance signed in October 2008, and the Optional	France	Reference is made to the response to recommendations 115.1 and 115.10.

	Protocol to the Convention Against Torture signed in September 2003.		
115.14.	Take appropriate measures for the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.	Togo	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.10.
115.15.	Finalize the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.	Iraq	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.10.
115.16.	Accelerate efforts to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.	Sierra Leone	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.10.
115.17.	Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance; Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.	Ukraine Argentina	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.10.
115.18.	Ratify the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as early as possible, which Iceland signed in 2008.	Japan	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.10.
115.19.	Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Convention relating to the status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.	Mozambique	As to the part concerning the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, reference is made to the response to recommendations 115.1 and 115.10.  As to the part regarding the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, accession will be completed in 2020.

115.20.	Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence; Ratify the Council of Europe's Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence "Istanbul Convention"; Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention); Ratify the Council of Europe's Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence; Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence "Istanbul Convention"; Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence;	Italy Turkey Finland Montenegro Netherlands Slovenia	Iceland ratified the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in April 2018.
115.21.	Submit its overdue reports to the relevant treaty body mechanisms; Submit overdue reports to the human rights treaty bodies.	Sierra Leone Ghana	Iceland has submitted the overdue reports. The report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was submitted in July 2018. The report to the Committee against Torture was submitted in October 2018.
115.22.	Implement an action plan on domestic violence and sexual violence against women, including immigrants and those from minority groups.	Sierra Leone	An Action Plan on Sexual Offences was approved by the government in 2017 In 2018, a steering group on coherent action against sexual violence was established. The group is composed of representatives from several ministries and one of its tasks is to oversee the implementation of the Action Plan. The primary role of the group is to form progressive and concentrated government policies towards the elimination of violence against women and girls, ensuring that Iceland continues to be at the forefront of gender equality globally. Focus has been put on fighting multiple discrimination against migrant women,

		<p>women who live in poverty, disabled women and LGBT+ women. The group has introduced legislative proposals to strengthen victims' rights in the justice system. The group is currently working on a strategy to tackle online abuse and image- based sexual violence, and on a holistic prevention strategy with the aim of eliminating gender- based and sexual violence and abuse. An Action Plan on Measures against Violence for the years 2019-2022 was approved by Parliament in 2019. It contains several measures aimed at combatting violence in society, with preventive measures, raising awareness and with education, improved procedures within the justice system and increased support for victims of violence. A special emphasis is put on violence against vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Furthermore, in accordance with the Action Plan on Immigrant Issues for the years 2016-2019, the Ministry of Social Affairs has signed a contract with the Women's Shelter and the Human Rights Centre regarding a project called <i>Know your rights - knowledge is power</i>. The aim of the project is to promote knowledge about social assistance and legal remedies available in Iceland to migrant women who have suffered domestic violence or other forms of gender-based violence.</p> <p>In Iceland, the #MeToo movement exposed the multiple discrimination suffered by migrant women in a country that has historically been relatively ethnically homogenous. The government funded two projects in response. Firstly, the Ministry of Social Affairs supported the Women's Story Circle. The aim of the project is to provide a safe space for immigrant women, where they can seek support, receive information and strengthen their social network. This is a project that WOMEN, Women of Multicultural Ethnicity Network in Iceland, and the Reykjavík City Library carried out but there is a long history of cooperation between these two parties. The second project was aimed at mapping and collecting research on the situation of women with an immigrant background, interviewing women, social workers, NGOs and experts who are working within the</p>
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			<p>system to map the main barriers for immigrant women in Iceland.</p> <p>In 2018, the Minister of Education, Science and Culture established a working group to prioritize actions to improve conditions for girls and women in sports clubs and organized youth work, based on stories from women on sexual violence and harassment, published in connection with the #MeToo movement. In the spring of 2019, a special legislation entered into force building a legal framework for improving the situation in this area, with emphasis on preventive activities and specialized assistance for the women concerned.</p>
115.23.	Continue to amend its national legislation in line with the international human rights instruments;	Libya	<p>Several changes have been made to bring national legislation more in line with international human rights instruments.</p> <p>To prepare the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, the Act on the Parliamentary Ombudsman was amended to give the Ombudsman the role of a National Prevention Mechanism.</p> <p>In 2018, Act No. 38/2018 on Services for Persons with Disabilities with Long-term Support Needs entered into force. The provision describing the objective of the Act states that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) should be applied when implementing the legislation. Furthermore, when children with disabilities and their families are involved, the Convention on the Rights of the Child shall be applied.</p> <p>In 2018, amendments were also made to the Municipalities' Social Services Act No. 40/1991 with the aim of implementing the CRPD into national legislation.</p> <p>In 2018, two anti-discrimination acts entered into force regarding Equal Treatment on the Labour Market No. 86/2018 and Equal Treatment Irrespective of Racial and Ethnic Origin, No. 85/2018. The aim of the first act is to combat discrimination</p>

			<p>and establish and maintain equal treatment of individuals on the labour market. The aim of the second act is to combat discrimination and establish and maintain equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin in all spheres of society. The Directorate of Equality has been assigned the role of implementing the anti-discrimination legislation. Furthermore, individuals, companies, institutions and organizations who believe they have been discriminated against can file a complaint to the Equality Complaints Committee free of charge.</p> <p>A new Act on Gender Autonomy, No. 80/2019, puts Iceland at the forefront of the so-called “Rainbow map”. The legislation confirms the right of individuals to change their gender registration in accordance with their own gender identity, without having to undergo medical diagnosis and medical treatment or satisfy requirements for behavioural conditioning. Furthermore, the law authorizes neutral gender registration.</p>
115.24.	Implement into national law the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.	Sierra Leone	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.23.
115.25.	Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and align the national legislation and practice with it.	Egypt	Iceland ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in September 2016. Several changes have been made to national legislation to align it with the convention; reference is made to response to recommendation 115.23.
115.26.	Take measures aimed at establishing a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles.	Georgia	The establishment in Iceland of a national human rights institution compliant with the Paris Principles is currently under consideration.
115.27.	Continue with its efforts to establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles.	Namibia	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.26.



115.28.	Step up efforts to establish a national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles.	Philippines	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.26.
115.29.	Develop an inclusive process with the objective of establishing a national human rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.	Uruguay	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.26.
115.30.	Revise the status of the Icelandic Human Rights Centre with the goal of ensuring full compliance with the Paris Principles.	Hungary	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.26.
115.31.	Establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles, drawing on the experience of the Icelandic Human Rights Centre.	Australia	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.26.
115.32.	Strengthen the national human rights institution, fully compliant with the Paris Principles.	Ukraine	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.26.
115.33.	Establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles; Establish a national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles; Establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles.	Turkey Algeria Egypt	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.26.
115.34.	Establish an independent national human rights institution, aligned with the Paris Principles; Establish an independent national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles.	France Mongolia	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.26.
115.35.	Adopt the necessary measures to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.	Panama	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.26.

115.36.	Establish a national human rights institution with a broad mandate and adequate resources, in line with the Paris Principles.	Afghanistan	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.26.
115.37.	Establish as soon as possible a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, with a broad mandate and sufficient resources.	Paraguay	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.26.
115.38.	Swiftly conclude the process of establishing a national human rights institution based on the Paris Principles in order for that institution to be rapidly created.	Portugal	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.26.
115.39.	Establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles and develop a comprehensive National Human Rights Action Plan.	Indonesia	As to the part concerning a national human rights institution, reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.26.  The recommendation regarding an action plan is under consideration. It should, however, be mentioned that a Governmental Steering Committee on Human Rights, consisting of representatives from all ministries, was established in 2017. The Committee's aim is to increase cooperation and coordination on human rights.
115.40.	Continue its efforts to adopt the national action plan on human rights and establish an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles.	Sudan	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.39.
115.41.	Pursue the development and adoption of a comprehensive national human rights action plan to strengthen consistency and cooperation in the implementation of related policies and programmes.	Canada	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.39.
115.42.	Continue efforts to formulate a national human rights action plan.	Philippines	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.39.

115.43.	Advance its activities aimed at ensuring full realization of the rights of women, children, elderly people and the persons with disabilities.	Mongolia	<p>Regarding the rights of women and persons with disabilities reference is made to the response to recommendations 115.22 and 115.23.</p> <p>The 2008 Gender Equality Act made gender mainstreaming a legal requirement. To deepen the analysis, focus has been put on intersectionality and examining gender impact regarding factors such as disability, origin, gender identity and age etc.</p> <p>In September 2018, the Ministers of Social Affairs, Justice, Education, Science and Culture, Health, Transport and Local Government and the Association of Local Authorities signed a Memorandum of Understanding on increased cooperation in the interest of children, with the aim of breaking down barriers that may arise between systems when comprehensive and coordinated services are needed.</p> <p>Policies affecting the rights of the child are in the hands of a few different ministries in Iceland but since January 2019 the Minister of Social Affairs and Children has had a certain coordinating role. In January 2019 a Steering Committee on the Rights of the Child, with representatives from several ministries, was appointed by the Minister. In February 2019 the Icelandic Government accepted a proposal on increased child participation and the requirement of an impact assessment on children's rights when adapting legislation and policies. Work is currently underway on formulating the proposal.</p> <p>Several other steps have been taken to improve the rights of children, including an updated National Action Plan on Child Protection for the years 2019-2022 which was adopted by the Icelandic Parliament in June 2019. In 2018 changes were also made to Act No. 83/1994 on the Ombudsman for Children. According to the law, the Ombudsman should host a Child Forum every other year, where the status and development of Children's Rights in the main areas of society are to be reviewed. It provides for active participation of children in the</p>
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			<p>planning of the Forum. The first Forum was held in November 2019.</p> <p>In 2018, amendments were made to the Municipalities' Social Services Act No. 40/1991 with Act No. 37/2018. Among the changes was the establishment of Seniors' Councils. These new councils are intended to be a formal consultation forum for local governments on services for the elderly and the development of aging issues in municipalities. The councils consist of a minimum of three representatives elected by the local government, three representatives nominated by the Senior Citizen's Association and one representative from the health authorities. Local councils decide the number of representatives appointed at any time in excess of the statutory minimum.</p>
115.44.	Enact legislation that includes protection from discrimination on the basis of intersex status.	Australia	<p>The Act on Equal Treatment on the Labour Market No. 86/2018 applies to the equal treatment of individuals in the labour market, irrespective of their sexual orientation, gender identity, sexual characteristics or gender expression, among other factors.</p> <p>In 2019, the Parliament passed the Act on Gender Autonomy No. 80/2019 that allows transgender people to change their gender marker in the National registry based on self-determination, i.e. without having to meet any medical requirement. The aim of the law is also to protect the right of all individuals to bodily integrity. In accordance with the law, a special temporary governmental committee has been established to draft an amendment on unnecessary surgeries on intersex children.</p>
115.45.	Enact legislation that prohibits age based discrimination.	Australia	This recommendation is currently under consideration. Reference is also made to the response to recommendation 115.46.
115.46.	Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation.	Timor-Leste	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.23 regarding two anti-discrimination acts that entered into force in

			2018. The plan is to expand the Act on Equal Treatment irrespective of Racial and Ethnic origin to include discrimination on other grounds, e.g. life stance, disability, reduced working capacity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, sexual characteristics or gender expression
115.47.	Adopt specific laws to eliminate other forms of discrimination to supplement existing legislation on gender discrimination in the country.	Spain	Reference is made to the response to recommendations 115.23 and 115.46.
115.48.	Adopt a comprehensive national legislation to combat all forms of discrimination and to pass national legislation that lives up to the spirit of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.	Sweden	Reference is made to the response to recommendations 115.23 and 115.46.
115.49.	Consider enacting a comprehensive law against all forms of discrimination and adopt an action plan for its implementation.	Serbia	Reference is made to the response to recommendations 115.23 and 115.46.  The recommendation regarding an action plan is under consideration.
115.50.	Complete the drafting of a law against discrimination and provide for its enactment as soon as possible.	Russian Federation	Reference is made to the response to recommendations 115.23 and 115.46.
115.51.	Continue efforts to fight against discrimination, racism and hate speech.	Lebanon	Regarding discrimination, reference is made to the response to recommendations 115.23 and 115.46.  The Icelandic Government is committed to actively fighting intolerance and prejudice in society. An Action Plan against Violence, for the years 2019 through 2022, was approved by parliament in 2019. One of the actions is on hate speech. The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture is responsible for this action. It revolves around raising awareness to counter hate speech and will focus on a social covenant and education tailored to children, young people and adults. An emphasis will be put on eliminating hate speech from the public debate and in

		<p>communications in general. A task force will be entrusted by the Ministry in 2020 with further elaborating on the project.</p> <p>Other measures to combat hate speech include the participation in the Council of Europe's No Hate Speech movement, which is a campaign for the human rights of young people online. The project stands for equality, dignity, human rights and diversity and is aimed at combatting hate speech, racism and discrimination in their online expression. Additionally, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Integration Council launched an awareness-raising television campaign, Without Prejudice, on discrimination against immigrants in 2016.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture has a contract with the Icelandic Centre for Safer Internet (SAFT) to coordinate a project to reduce the levels of acceptance of online hate speech and to support young people in standing up for human rights, online and offline. The working methods are awareness-raising, advocacy and seeking creative solutions. Furthermore, the Icelandic Human Rights Centre and SAFT have published and promoted material on identifying hate speech, international legal provisions on this matter and the situation in Iceland.</p> <p>Iceland has also actively participated in the Nordic programme for Democracy, Inclusion and Safety, that was established by the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2016. The role of the programme is to facilitate coordination and cooperation on these issues in the education system, to fight all types of violent extremism, intolerance and populism and promote a positive school culture at all levels.</p> <p>The Icelandic Police has focused on efforts to combat hate speech, including through education and improved data collection on hate speech and hate crimes. Icelandic authorities have, in cooperation with the Organization of Security and Co-</p>
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			operation in Europe (OSCE) — Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), provided training for police officers and prosecutors. The project focuses on training police officers in the investigation of hate crimes as well as on training prosecutors. Those who receive this training are meant to educate other law enforcement officers and prosecutors. At the same time, the aim is to make this education a permanent part of the education and retraining of police officers and prosecutors.
115.52.	Continue to combat discrimination, hate speech and racism.	Pakistan	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.51.
115.53.	Continue to take measures to combat ethnic discrimination and racism as well as hate speech on grounds of ethnicity, colour, race and religion.	Tajikistan	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.51.
115.54.	Develop national policies to fight hate crimes and hate speech.	Lebanon	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.51.
115.55.	Combat effectively racial discrimination, xenophobic words and deeds, and strike down on hate crimes through legislation, law enforcement and administrative measures.	China	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.51.
115.56.	Consider introducing a criminal law provision that expressly considers the racist motivation of an offence as a specific aggravating circumstance.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	The plan is to amend the Icelandic Penal Code to include racist motivation as an aggravating circumstance for all offences in the year 2020.
115.57.	Take the necessary measures to combat all forms of intolerance and offences motivated by hatred or racial considerations.	Algeria	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.51.
115.58.	While continuing to protect freedom of opinion and expression consistent with article 73 of the Constitution, maintain article 233 (a) of the General Penal Code and article 27 of the Media Act, which	Canada	Article 233 (a) of the Icelandic Penal Code and Article 27 of the Media Act continue to prohibit hate speech and direct incitement to hatred in Iceland.

	explicitly prohibit hate speech and direct incitement to hatred.		
115.59.	Increase efforts to prosecute and convict human traffickers through the training of investigators, prosecutors and judges on detecting and prosecuting such crimes.	United States of America	<p>The Ministry of Justice issued its Emphases on Actions to Combat Human Trafficking and Other Forms of Exploitation in 2019. This document serves as the new Action Plan on this issue.</p> <p>The new Action Plan includes numerous points of actions to further increase awareness among the general public, provide education and awareness for workers, and increase the institutional knowledge on how to better understand the nature of human trafficking and identify it.</p> <p>The Action Plan focuses on four main approaches or categories: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership. Ten actions are described in the document and they all fall into one of these four categories. The actions are to be implemented as means to combat human trafficking and labour exploitation, and include the revision of current legislation, regulations and administrative directives on how to identify the victims of human trafficking and other forms of exploitation. The actions are furthermore designed to provide assistance and protection to the victims, to provide guidelines on how to identify instances where children are believed to be the victims of human trafficking as well as actions to provide proper protections for them. These actions will further enhance institutional knowledge among law enforcement on the proper police procedures when it comes to investigations and prosecutions in this area, as well as coordinated efforts to cooperate with foreign law enforcement entities in the fight against human trafficking. Within the Action Plan, a section is devoted to the use of statistics as a means of enforcement. This entails the mandated reporting of information on suspected victims of human trafficking by law enforcement authorities and the prosecuting authorities on charges that are filed, along with reported cases</p>



		<p>and their resolutions. The Action Plan specifies and designates which entity is responsible for which action.</p> <p>Following the release of the Action Plan, a steering group was established, consisting of the parties who are responsible for the implementation and introduction of actions under the plan, and other stakeholders, including municipalities, NGOs, the labour movement, the Red Cross, Icelandair and the airport operator Isavia. The authorities consider it important to obtain the views and advice of these parties with knowledge and experience in this field in order to monitor the progress of actions, what has been accomplished, the challenges and proposed improvements.</p> <p>Three task forces were created from this large steering group. One has the role of implementing that part of the Action Plan which concerns preventive measures, the second on investigation and prosecution, and the third on measures regarding assistance, support and protection. The task forces have been working for some time and have made good progress.</p> <p>OSCE human trafficking experts held a two-day workshop for the steering group in September 2019 for the purpose of defining its role and preparing it to achieve maximum success in its efforts.</p> <p>Following the adoption of the new Action Plan, a team was set up in the Directorate of Immigration to work on actions laid down in the plan: to have a clear analytical process, effective registration, reporting forms, and collection of statistics by the agency and improved procedures prescribing what actions are to be taken by the agency if a person is identified as a potential victim. The team includes both employees from the protection division and the residence permit division of the Directorate.</p>
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115.60.	Exert further efforts to implement the national plan to combat human trafficking.	Sudan	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.59
115.61.	Increase focus on supervisory and control mechanisms in the labour market. Develop a wider scope of protection against discrimination and more tools to address the rights of persons who are subject to human trafficking.	Norway	<p>The aim of the Act on Equal Treatment on the Labour Market, No. 86/2018 is to combat discrimination and to establish and maintain equal treatment of individuals on the labour market. The Act applies to the equal treatment of individuals on the labour market, irrespective of their race, ethnic origin, religion, life stance, disability, reduced working capacity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, sexual characteristics or gender expression.</p> <p>In terms of labour trafficking, the Minister of Social Affairs and Children appointed a working group in October 2018 to combat social dumping on the domestic labour market. The group was composed of representatives from the government and the social partners. In January 2019 the working group submitted its report where one of the main suggestions was to increase focus on appropriate assistance and protection for victims of trafficking and forced labour. Following the report, or in September 2019, a second working group was appointed by the Minister of Social Affairs and Children, composed of the representatives from the social partners and government to form a legislative framework to combat social dumping in the domestic labour market.</p> <p>On the initiative of the Minister of Social Affairs and Children in November 2019 an agreement was made between the governmental agencies that oversee the labour market to</p>

			<p>formalize their cooperation and consultation. The main aim of the agreement is to ensure that all workers within the labour market are working in accordance with Icelandic law and collective agreements.</p> <p>In terms of welfare services to victims and presumed victims of human trafficking, the municipalities are obligated to provide financial assistance, safe housing and counselling. In terms of safe housing, female victims have access to the Women's Shelter in Reykjavík. A similar shelter for men is not available so they are provided with secure housing in a guest house.</p> <p>As to the part on human trafficking, reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.59.</p>
115.62.	Carry out the adoption of the action plan for the prevention of all forms of violence, with a view to strengthening the framework for the protection of all victims, in particular those belonging to vulnerable groups.	Mexico	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.22.
115.63.	Promote the political participation of women in public positions of power.	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	<p>In August 2019, a new Action Plan on Gender Equality for the period 2020 - 2023 was agreed upon by the government and a resolution containing the plan submitted to Parliament. The new Action Plan for Gender Equality consists of 24 interventions or actions, including interventions aimed at increasing the participation of women in positions of power. Each of the 10 ministries is responsible for at least one intervention.</p> <p>The Icelandic Government and the Icelandic Parliament annually host a Women Political Leaders forum. It serves as a platform for women leaders from across the world to connect with one another, share thoughts and ideas and form policies and strategies to make the world a better place for women and girls.</p>
115.64.	Continue its policies and efforts to further promote and protect women's rights.	Armenia	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.22.

		<p>Iceland prioritized advocacy of gender equality and women's rights during its membership in the UN Human Rights Council 2018-2019, including by supporting relevant resolutions before the Council to that effect, speaking in its national capacity in both thematic debates and in debates about country-specific situations, as well as joining forces with other like-minded nations. Gender equality is also a priority in Iceland's Foreign Policy and supporting further efforts to promote gender equality is a key element of the work of the Foreign Service.</p> <p>A new Act on the Termination of Pregnancy was adopted by the Parliament in May 2019, repealing the previous Act on Abortion, dating back to 1975. It codifies the personal autonomy and self-determination women of all ages have over their own bodies. Women have, according to the new legislation, the right to have a termination up until the end of the 22nd week of pregnancy. After that pregnancies may only be terminated for medical reasons.</p> <p>In January 2018, an amendment to the Gender Equality Act, (Article 19) on Equal Pay Certification entered into force. It states that women and men working for the same employer shall be paid equal wages and enjoy equal terms of employment for the same jobs or jobs of equal value. The law introduced an obligation for employers with more than 25 employees on a yearly basis to implement an Equal Pay Management system based on the Equal Pay Standard ÍST 85 and to obtain a certification from certified accreditation offices. It is being implemented in four steps, depending on the sizes of the organisations. The ones with the most employees are in the first step and are obliged to be certified before the end of 2020, and in the fourth and last step are the smallest organisations with more than 25 employees that shall be certified before 2023. Certification shall be renewed every three years</p> <p>Statistics Iceland has, in collaboration with the Action Group on Equal Pay (which is a cooperation between the social partners</p>
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			<p>and the government), published research and statistics on gender equality in the labour market with a focus on labour market trends, wages and the gender pay gap for the period of 2008-2016. Such research will continue in the future as part of the monitoring with the implementation on the Act on the Equal Pay Certification No. 56/2017.</p> <p>On the governmental level, both a gender equality plan and a prevention, protection and response plan to address gender-based and sexual harassment and violence are in place.</p> <p>All parents are entitled to paid parental leave. In order to promote and facilitate gender equality at home and in the labour market, efforts have been made at the political level to encourage parents to divide the leave time equally.</p>
115.65.	Intensify the efforts to raise awareness among women and girls about their rights under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and on the individual communication procedures contemplated in its Optional Protocol.	Panama	<p>Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.64.</p> <p>In the wake of the #MeToo movement in Iceland, an assessment of the prevention, response and protection measures and procedures in place across all ministries was conducted in the spring of 2019 by a steering committee appointed by the Prime Minister. The conclusion was that gender-based and sexual harassment was not common although there was indication that victims were hesitant to come forward with their claims in a formal way and in case they did, were rather discontent with the case proceedings. Based on these findings, the steering committee issued several recommendations to address these matters in a more competent way.</p> <p>This steering committee is preparing a policy plan until 2030 in cooperation with other ministries and stakeholders and an awareness-raising campaign on violence against children until 2025, based on the earlier campaign that ended in 2015.</p>

115.66.	Take general measures to eliminate gender stereotypes on the role and obligations of women and men, in particular through awareness-raising campaigns and education.	Ecuador	<p>The Barbershop was an initiative taken by Iceland and Suriname in 2014 inspired by the HeForShe campaign. The first conference was co-convened by UN Women and the permanent representatives of Iceland and Suriname to the UN, held at the United Nations in New York on 14-15 January 2015. Its purpose was to motivate “men and boys to commit to upholding gender equality.” Since then, Iceland has developed a Barbershop Toolbox to enable others to mobilize the men around them for gender equality. The Toolbox is part of Iceland’s commitments to the HeForShe movement and can be accessed on their website.</p> <p>SAFT Iceland regularly offers courses for parents and teaches with a focus on awareness- raising campaigns and education aimed at eliminating gender stereotypes.</p> <p>The University of Reykjavik encourages women regularly to study in the technical fields, and part of this is the project Girls and Technology, where girls from 9th grade are invited to the university and technology companies. The aim is to stimulate their interest in various fields of technical education and career opportunities, to break down stereotypes and to show them the diversity that characterizes the technology industry.</p>
115.67.	Accelerate tackling gender inequality, effectively protect women’s rights and strike down at violence against women.	China	Reference is made to the response to recommendations 115.22 and 115.64.
115.68.	Continue active measures and initiatives to minimize the gender gap.	Japan	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.64.
115.69.	Increase its efforts to close the economic gender gap in order to bring about greater gender equality.	Thailand	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.64.
115.70.	Continue its proactive efforts in order to ensure full gender equality in education and the labour market.	Netherlands	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.22 and 115.64.

			<p>Gender equality has been prioritized in the education system in Iceland for a long time. Efforts have been made to eliminate gender stereotypes, as mentioned in the response to recommendation 115.66.</p> <p>Recently, efforts have been made to improve the status of boys in schools, finding ways to motivate them within the education system. The main focus has been put on improving reading skills and literacy, encouraging them to get a relevant upper secondary education, and lowering dropout rates.</p>
115.71.	Address gender pay disparity effectively through the full implementation of the equal pay system standard.	Maldives	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.68.
115.72.	Adopt and implement measures that ensure equal remuneration for work of equal value in an effort towards fulfilling the Government's commitment to eliminate the gender pay gap before 2022.	Namibia	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.68.
115.73.	Continue strengthening the role of women in the professional and labour market spheres.	Argentina	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.70.
115.74.	Adopt a new action plan to fully implement the equal pay standard to eradicate the gender pay gap for work.	Egypt	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.68.
115.75.	Step up measures aimed at elimination of violence against women.	Ukraine	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.22.
115.76.	Deepen the measures taken to combat gender-based violence, sexual abuses and violations suffered by women with a special focus on migrant women and women with disabilities.	Chile	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.22.
115.77.	Strengthen awareness-raising plans and programmes on violence against women, including training programmes aimed at	Chile	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.22.



	increasing sensitivity towards victims and their vulnerabilities.		
115.78.	Intensify measures to raise awareness of domestic violence.	Timor-Leste	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.22.
115.79.	Put into practice a new action plan to combat sexual violence.	Uruguay	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.22.
115.80.	Adopt a national plan against sexual and domestic violence that takes into account the specific needs and vulnerabilities of migrant women and women with disabilities.	Bangladesh	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.22.
115.81.	Adopt a national plan of action on the prevention and protection from all forms of violence, including domestic violence.	Estonia	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.22.
115.82.	Update the Plan against Domestic and Sexual Violence, that despite expiring in 2011, has not been renewed.	Spain	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.22.
115.83.	Pay special attention to combating domestic and sexual violence, by implementing a new national action plan and ensure that it reinforces the provision of services to women and girl victims of sexual violence.	France	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.22.
115.84.	Conduct follow-up activities related to the implementation of national legislation and awareness campaigns aimed at reducing the number of cases of domestic violence.	Sweden	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.22.
115.85.	Address the causes of the high number of acquittals in sexual violence cases against women.	Islamic Republic of Iran	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.22.
115.86.	Intensify measures to raise awareness of domestic violence, including through training for judges, prosecutors, police and health officers.	Turkey	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.22.

115.87.	Closely monitor the investigation and prosecution of cases of domestic and sexual violence and their effectiveness, improve access to justice for victims of such violence and provide training in the field of domestic and sexual violence for judges, police, prosecutors and other relevant professionals.	Czechia	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.22.
115.88.	Ensure that sentencing laws are appropriate and adequate to address domestic and sexual violence.	United States of America	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.22.
115.89.	Improve access to justice for women victims of domestic violence and gender-based violence.	Maldives	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.22.
115.90.	Support comprehensively increased efficiency in fighting violence against children.	Tajikistan	<p>In 2019 a national Action Plan on Child Protection, for the years 2019-2022, was adopted. The scope of the Action Plan is broad, but it includes, inter alia, measures to strengthen early intervention and services where physical and psychological violence against a child has taken place.</p> <p>In 2019 a national Action Plan against Violence for the period 2019-2022 was adopted. Among the proposals is the establishment and maintenance of education on violence and responses to it among those who work with children and young people in schools, sports and youth activities. Educational materials on violence are also to be prepared for children at the pre-school level. The educational materials are to be accompanied by instructions on their use for all relevant personnel. Another goal is to ensure that students receive education on taking a responsible position on sex, pornography and gender-specific violence in order to strengthen the nationwide health of school-age children.</p> <p>In 2019 a new branch of the Children's House opened in Akureyri, in the north of Iceland, to ensure that children outside of the Reykjavík area have better access to professional services.</p>

			The new location is equipped with all necessary facilities in a child-friendly environment and operated by professionals from the Children's House in Reykjavik.
115.91.	Establish government-coordinated measures aimed at prevention of sexual abuse of children.	Islamic Republic of Iran	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.90.
115.92.	Adopt a new national plan of action on children with adequate follow-up mechanisms for full implementation.	Islamic Republic of Iran	A comprehensive national action plan on the rights of the child has not been adopted but is under consideration. However, several strategies and policies have been adopted in recent years concerning the rights and interests of children in specific areas. For example, the Action Plan on Child Protection discussed in the response to recommendation 115.90.
115.93.	Ensure that the new national plan of action is equipped with an evaluation mechanism.	Islamic Republic of Iran	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.92.
115.94.	Take further steps to protect the rights of the child, prevent child abuse, exploitation and violence.	Ukraine	Reference is made to the response to recommendations 115.90 and 115.92.  The Metropolitan police have changed their working methods and put more effort into the investigation of sexual abuse against children on the internet. An emphasis has been put on increased international cooperation, for example with Europol and Interpol. The expertise on these crimes has been increased significantly and there are plans for further training within the police force in this field.
115.95.	Increase professional and effective working procedures in addressing child sexual abuse cases.	Maldives	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.90.
115.96.	Intensify steps to combat and prevent discrimination, especially against persons with disabilities, particularly with respect to	Ghana	Reference is made to the response to recommendations 115.23 and 115.46.

	the rights to education, housing and social assistance.		<p>Iceland emphasizes equal access to inclusive quality education for all, gender equality, a human rights-based approach in education and continuing and increasing focus on implementing the Sustainable Development Goal 4 on education with special focus on goal 4.7.</p> <p>In Iceland the SDGs have been integrated into government policy on social, economic, and environmental affairs. In implementing the SDGs, special care is taken to leave no individual or group behind, such as marginalized groups like persons with disabilities, immigrants and low-income people. Special emphasis is put on improved literacy and actions against drop-out from upper secondary schools.</p>
115.97.	Continue its efforts in combating and preventing discrimination, especially against persons with disabilities, particularly with respect to the rights to education and social assistance.	State of Palestine	Reference is made to the response to recommendations 115.23, 115.46 and 115.96.
115.98.	Improve the integration of children of migrants into the national health system.	Brazil	<p>The Icelandic Government underlines that all children are provided with equal access to the national health system. All children within Iceland should therefore have access to quality health care.</p> <p>All children of refugees and asylum seekers that come to Iceland get an ID number (kennitala). After receiving an ID number, the Directorate of Immigration pays all expenses incurred for health care service until they are fully integrated into the health care system.</p> <p>Other foreign children derive their right to health care from their parents' right, i.e. if the parents have entered the Health Care System or have medical insurance, the children do as well.</p>
115.99.	Strengthen migration policies based on respect for the human rights of all migrants.	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	A new legislation on immigration and asylum, the Act on Foreigners (No. 80/2016), entered into force in 2017. The main aim of the legislation was to ensure humanity, equality, and

		<p>efficiency in the Icelandic administrative system and to adjust the legislation to the highest international standards. Since the legislation entered into force, it has strengthened procedures and administrative efficiency and focus has been put on the provisions of family reunification and children's rights</p> <p>As is to be expected with complicated legislation dealing with a sensitive issue, there has been some criticism and issues with the implementation of the legislation in practice. Therefore, the legislation has been and will continue to be under constant review. Overall, the Icelandic Government believes that the legislation has led to many important improvements when it comes to providing international protection and the rights of immigrants.</p> <p>An Action Plan on immigrant issues for the year 2016-2019 is based on five pillars, society, education, family, labour market and refugees. The aim of the Action Plan is to ensure that all people in Iceland have equal opportunities, irrespective of their individual characteristics and circumstances. The implementation of the Action Plan is ongoing. Many actions have already been implemented, some are in progress and others are pending.</p> <p>The Action Plan emphasizes that the community should create good conditions, on a par with the best to be found anywhere, for all families, not least those with children, independent of their nationality and origin, and support them in tackling the tasks they face. Priority shall be given to providing immigrants with information immediately after their arrival in the country. Local councils are to draw up reception schedules with the aim of enabling immigrants to prosper from the outset of their time in a new country and to have the same opportunities as others regarding security of residential accommodation and general welfare. Eight actions are listed in the action plan which included improvement of information provided, research on</p>
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			<p>housing and participation by children and teenagers in sporting, leisure and youth club activities.</p> <p>Various other measures have been taken to strengthen the legal framework in Iceland, see response to recommendation 115.23. In September 2018, two anti-discrimination Acts entered into force regarding equal treatment in employment and equal treatment regardless of race or ethnic origin. The aim of these acts is to combat discrimination and establish and maintain equal treatment of individuals inside and outside the labour market. Furthermore, in 2018, Iceland also signed up for the Global Compact on Migration, as well as the Global Compact on Refugees.</p> <p>From 2011, the Ministry of Welfare, now the Ministry of Social Affairs, has had an agreement with the Icelandic Human Rights Centre on free legal counselling for immigrants and interpreters are provided free of charge. In 2019, the funding for this was increased so the Human Rights Centre could also provide free legal counselling for immigrants who are victims of domestic violence in the northern part of Iceland</p>
115.100.	Take measures for the promotion and protection of the rights of migrants and their families.	Togo	Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.99.
115.101.	Develop targeted programmes and strategies to increase the awareness of migrant women of their rights and provide free legal aid and effective remedies if and when their rights are violated.	Bangladesh	<p>Reference is made to the response to recommendations 115.22 and 115.59.</p> <p>Regarding legal aid for migrant women, reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.99.</p> <p>A pamphlet “Your rights, important information for foreign women in Iceland” was published in 2014 by the Centre for Gender Equality. The pamphlet contains information regarding the Icelandic justice system and Icelandic society. It addresses issues concerning trafficking in human beings, divorce, custody</p>

			issues and violence and threats in intimate relationships. It also contains references to further information for assistance with addresses and telephone numbers and websites for various institution and organizations. The pamphlet is published in seven languages: English, Polish, Arabic, Thai, Russian, Spanish and French.
115.102.	Adopt a comprehensive national integration strategy that ensures the proper integration of migrants and increases the awareness of migrant women of their rights and protection thereof.	Thailand	Reference is made to the response to recommendations 115.99 and 115.101
115.103.	Continue efforts to host refugees and migrants.	Algeria	<p>Reference is made to the response to recommendations 115.99 and 115.101 regarding migrants.</p> <p>The Icelandic Government is committed to providing international protection to those in need and in recent years, the number of people receiving international protection has increased significantly. In 2012, 12 persons received international protection in Iceland while 289 persons were granted international protection in 2018.</p> <p>Icelandic authorities have a long history of resettling refugees in cooperation with UNHCR. In recent years, Icelandic authorities have begun to resettle refugees yearly, and the number of persons who are resettled has been increased. In 2019, 74 persons were resettled, and the government has agreed on resettling 85 persons in 2020. Iceland has in recent years primarily resettled refugees from Syria and neighbouring countries and LGBTQI-individuals</p> <p>According to the Action Plan on Immigrant Issues from 2016, greater emphasis has been placed on providing refugees with the necessary assistance to process the traumas that they have had to go through as well as give them the chance to actively</p>

			<p>participate in society, whether in the labour market, education or in other fields. The plan aims to coordinate and improve the reception of refugees after asylum proceedings and offer every refugee education and consultation on their rights and obligations, including information about employment opportunities, housing, language, education and Icelandic society in general.</p> <p>In 2017, the Minister of Social Affairs made an agreement with the Icelandic Red Cross to provide all refugees with assistance, this includes for example a support family, first aid training, legal advice, a seminar for refugees regarding post-traumatic stress disorder and support to municipalities.</p> <p>Furthermore, a committee was appointed by the Minister of Social Affairs to both map the situation of refugees in Iceland and to come up with suggestions for a resettlement program for all refugees that receive international protection in Iceland, regardless of whether they came to Iceland through the asylum system as asylum applicants or as UN resettlement refugees. The committee submitted a report to the Minister of Social Affairs and the suggestions of the committee have been approved by the government and are in the process of being implemented.</p>
115.104.	Strengthen the measures for the effective implementation of the regulatory framework in the field of immigration, asylum and refugees, in particular by training public officials involved, as well as by accelerating efforts towards the adoption of the action plan 2016-2019, in order to ensure that migrants can be fully involved in society on an equal basis with citizens.	Mexico	<p>Reference is made to the response to recommendations 115.99-115.103</p> <p>According to the Action Plan on Immigrant Issues there is emphasis on making access to public services easier for immigrants and raising the professional awareness of service staff to cultural sensitivities and promote greater competence in servicing immigrants. Courses have been held in cooperation with UNHCR and ICC (Inter-Cultural Cities) for workers who are in the front line in the public service and for specialists who deal with people in face-to-face situations, e.g. social workers,</p>



			<p>nurses, teachers and policemen. Training materials are being developed.</p> <p>In 2019 the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture established a working group with experts and stakeholders to work on policy guidelines on the education of immigrant children and youth. The working group delivered a report with recommendations to the Minister of Education, Science and Culture in April 2020.</p>
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117. The following recommendations will be examined by Iceland, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>IS-Response</b>	<b>IS- Follow up status 2019</b>
117.10.	Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education.	Iraq		The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture has finished preparing the ratification of the Convention against Discrimination in Education and is in the ratification process, according to procedure by the Ministry of Foreign affairs.
117.12.	Reassess the reasons behind the reservations made to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with the aim of withdrawing them.	Panama		Under consideration.
117.15.	Undertake measures to ensure that domestic courts are put in a position to apply the principles stemming from the European Convention on Human Rights.	Denmark		The European Convention on Human Rights has been directly incorporated into Icelandic law and its principles are regularly applied by domestic courts.

				<p>Several training seminars for judges and other professionals on the main principles of the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights have taken place, in particular regarding the balance between the freedom of expression and the right to privacy.</p> <p>On 1 January 2018, a new Act on the Judiciary No. 50/2016 came into force. It established an independent agency – the Judicial Administration. One of the roles of the Judicial Administration is to organize the training and education for judges. A special education and information manager was hired in order to put an even greater emphasis on education of judges. They also cooperate with members of the Council of Europe HELP (Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals) team in Iceland. It is therefore expected that training and awareness-raising measures will continue and ensure future practice of domestic courts in compliance with the Convention standards.</p>
117.18.	Accelerate the adoption of the national action plan on human rights which was presented to the Icelandic Parliament	Iraq		Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.39.
117.19.	Adopt the proposed national action plan for human rights.	Pakistan		Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.39.
117.20.	Meet its official development assistance target of 0.7 per cent of its gross national product.	Bangladesh		Following the economic crash in 2008, contributions to development aid were cut significantly and went as low as 0.2% in 2011 and 2012. Since then, contributions

				have grown and reached 0.28% in 2016 and 2017. The contributions thus went from ISK 4.5 billion in 2014 to ISK 7.1 billion in 2016. According to the current government's coalition agreement, contributions to development aid will be increased with a goal of reaching 0.35% of gross national product in 2022.
117.21.	Launch the process to design and implement the National Action Plan on business and human rights in accordance with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.	Colombia		Under consideration.
117.22.	Ensure that policies, legislation, regulations and enforcement measures effectively serve to prevent and address the heightened risk of business involvement in abuses in conflict situations, which includes situations of foreign occupation.	State of Palestine		Under consideration.
117.23.	Improve financial supervisory mechanisms to ensure better control and transparency in order to combat corruption and tax evasion.	Norway		In the last decade, steps have been taken to implement international rules that aim to prevent tax evasion and tax erosion. Since 2015 this work has largely been based on the OECD's BEPS plan.
117.24.	Consider introducing anti-discriminatory legislation and establish a specialized body to combat racism and discrimination which could form part of a body with wider objectives in the field of human rights generally.	Namibia		Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.51.
117.26.	Eradicate racism, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination against foreigners.	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela		Reference is made to response to recommendation 115.51.

117.28.	Revise or make amendments to existing legislation and adopt all other necessary measures in order to fight all forms of incitement and agitation to hatred and violence.	Sweden		Reference is made to response to recommendation 115.51.
117.30.	Revise its social benefit programmes for assisting vulnerable families.	Bangladesh		Iceland has in place extensive social programmes aimed at assisting vulnerable individuals as well as families. In the reporting period, child benefits have been raised, and the total expenditures for child benefits were higher in 2018 than in 2017, due to both an increase in the income limit values and higher benefit payments.
117.31.	Take further steps to increase the budget for public education and continue to improve school facilities for children.	State of Palestine		The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture continues to work towards the improvement of the school system in Iceland, in close cooperation with the local municipalities, who are responsible for the operation of pre-schools and compulsory schools, as well as with other main stakeholders. Relevant stakeholders work together in a steering group on improving the quality of education for all. Among the aims is to ensure better coordination within the education system. Furthermore, one of the current projects revolves around revising the financial mechanism and regulations.
117.32.	Provide protection for the family as the natural and fundamental unit of society.	Egypt		Iceland continues to celebrate diversity and respect all types of families. Icelandic legislation promotes and protects the rights of children and aims to provide families with the support they need.
117.33.	Eradicate discriminatory practices in the labour market that detrimentally affect women.	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela		Reference is made to the response to recommendations 115.23 and 115.43.

117.34.	Ensure that victims of domestic, gender-based and sexual violence are able to report incidents and press charges without fear of adverse consequences in case of losing in court.	United States of America		<p>The Steering Group on Coherent Action against Violence against Women has introduced further legislative proposals to strengthen victim's rights in the justice system. The proposals are currently under review in the Ministry of Justice.</p> <p>It should be noted that Iceland has no tradition of criminal justice action against people who have filed charges that cannot be proven.</p>
117.35.	Ensure that minors are separated from adults in places of detention.	Russian Federation		<p>According to the Execution of Sentences Act No. 15/2016, children who have received non-suspended sentences shall serve their sentence in the care of child protection authorities, unless a specialist evaluation deems it in the best interests of the child to be in prison by referral to special circumstances pertaining to the child in question and in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.</p>
17.36.	Guarantee adequate legal protection and rehabilitation of victims of sexual violence.	Russian Federation		<p>Reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.22.</p>
117.37.	Eradicate the crimes of sexual abuse and trafficking in children.	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela		<p>Regarding trafficking in children reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.59. The new Action Plan includes numerous points of actions that aim to increase knowledge and awareness regarding children as victims of human trafficking and ensure better protection and services for children.</p> <p>Regarding sexual abuse of children reference is made to the response to recommendation 115.90.</p>

117.40.	Review its legislation to ensure that it fully complies with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and international standards on refugees and asylum seekers.	Islamic Republic of Iran		Reference is made to the response to recommendations 115.99 and 115.103.
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