

# PAKISTAN: VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONTINUE

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL: SUBMISSION TO THE 42ND SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP, 30 JANUARY 2023

### SUMMARY

This submission was prepared for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Pakistan on 30 January 2023. Amnesty International assesses the national human rights frameworks and evaluates the implementation of recommendations made to Pakistan in its previous UPR, including in relation to enforced disappearances, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and freedom of opinion and expression.

Regarding the human rights situation on the ground, Amnesty International raises concerns about enforced disappearances, unlawful restrictions of freedom of conscience, thought or religion and to freedom of expression, sexual and gender-based violence and climate change. It ends with a set of recommendations to Pakistan which, if implemented, would contribute to improving the human rights situation.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IS A GLOBAL MOVEMENT OF MORE THAN 10 MILLION PEOPLE WHO CAMPAIGN FOR A WORLD WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS ARE ENJOYED BY ALL.

OUR VISION IS FOR EVERY PERSON TO ENJOY ALL THE RIGHTS ENSHRINED IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS.

WE ARE INDEPENDENT OF ANY GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL IDEOLOGY, ECONOMIC INTEREST OR RELIGION AND ARE FUNDED MAINLY BY OUR MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLIC DONATIONS.

## FOLLOW UP TO THE PREVIOUS REVIEW

1. Pakistan has made very limited progress in implementing the 168 recommendations it supported (out of a total of 289) during its previous review in 2017, especially relating to enforced disappearances, freedom of thought, conscience and religious belief, and freedom of opinion and expression.<sup>1</sup>
2. The government has failed to criminalize enforced disappearances despite supporting recommendations to do so and to thoroughly investigate allegations and bring perpetrators to justice. The government stated in the previous review that it “pursues action against perpetrators who have been involved in enforced disappearances”,<sup>2</sup> but no one has been held accountable for any disappearance. They continue to be carried out with impunity and victims and their families are still struggling for truth, justice, and accountability.
3. Pakistan committed to protect persons belonging to minorities and to work towards interfaith and communal harmony.<sup>3</sup> It also committed to investigate incidents of violence against religious minorities and holding perpetrators accountable.<sup>4</sup> Regrettably, violence against religious minorities continues unabated. Blasphemy laws are still used to target religious minorities including Christians and the persecuted Ahmadi community, and even Muslims, often to settle personal scores. Places of worship for Ahmadi Muslims have also been desecrated.
4. Pakistan also pledged to safeguard freedom of expression and protect journalists from attacks or intimidation.<sup>5</sup> Since the last review, authorities have tightened their grip on journalists by imposing tighter controls. Attacks, harassment and intimidation against media and journalists have increased.

## THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK

5. An amendment was introduced in Parliament in June 2021 to amend the Penal Code of Pakistan and criminalize enforced disappearances but did not conform with international human rights law and standards.<sup>6</sup> After it was returned with feedback by the Senate Standing Committee on Interior, the amendment was not tabled in the National Assembly within the required time and lapsed. No action has been taken since.
6. Pakistan has failed to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, despite its statement in its first review in 2008 that it was about to accede.<sup>7</sup>
7. Regrettably, Pakistan merely noted numerous recommendations<sup>8</sup> in the previous review to repeal its “blasphemy laws” and these laws remain in force. Section 295-C of the Penal Code provides for a mandatory death sentence for anyone convicted under this law. There has been no action to substantially modify or repeal other problematic clauses such as sections 295-A (insulting religious feelings), 295-B (life imprisonment for “defiling the Quran”) and 298 B (misuse of religious epithets) of and 298 C (Ahmadi Muslims declaring themselves to be of Islamic faith).
8. The Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) - particularly Sections 3,<sup>9</sup> 31,<sup>10</sup> and 37<sup>11</sup> - and the Anti-Terrorism Act have been used to stifle freedom of expression, namely against journalists and media workers. In February 2022, an ordinance criminalizing online “defamation” was passed before being scrapped.<sup>12</sup> In September 2021, the Pakistan Media Development Authority was proposed, which effectively enabled press censorship by bring all media under one regulator, granting the government unchecked powers to punish journalists through steep fines, special “media tribunals” and appointing government officials to key positions.<sup>13</sup> This was also ultimately disbanded in April 2022.<sup>14</sup>
9. The Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act also has a vague provision under Section 6 against spreading “false information” which may be used to prosecute journalists and media workers.
10. Despite supporting numerous recommendations in the previous review to address violence against women and girls,<sup>15</sup> it remains a pervasive issue. In June 2021, the Senate passed the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill 2021 but is yet to be enacted by the National Assembly.<sup>16</sup> In July 2021, an adviser to the Prime

Minister, Babar Awan, asked for the bill to be reviewed by the Council of Islamic Ideology – an advisory body – to allay the concerns of some political parties that the law “contravenes the Islamic [injunctions] and way of life.”<sup>17</sup> The government denied that any official request had been made, and any feedback provided by the Council was not made public. The draft legislation was sent back to parliament, after the review of the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights, where it remains pending.

11. The four-year tenure of the National Commission on Human Rights’ (NCHR) members expired in May 2019 and no new appointments were made, rendering the NCHR defunct for two years. The Islamabad High Court was petitioned in March 2021 by civil society and ruled that the government must appoint a head of the NCHR.<sup>18</sup> On 18 November 2021, a chairperson and six members were appointed to the NCHR.<sup>19</sup>

## THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION ON THE GROUND

### Enforced disappearances

12. The use of enforced disappearances continues to be used by the state to target human rights defenders, journalists and, more generally, people voicing criticism of the authorities, with impunity. As of 30 June 2022, at least 2,219 cases – and likely many more – remain pending.<sup>20</sup>
13. Amnesty International has documented the frequent use of the practice of enforced disappearances in the province of Balochistan.<sup>21</sup> In June 2022, three students of Baloch origin were disappeared from Karachi University.<sup>22</sup>
14. In June 2022, journalists Nafees Naeem<sup>23</sup> and Arsalan Khan were also taken away by authorities who released them later without any charge.<sup>24</sup> In December 2021, former prime minister Imran Khan met with the family of disappeared journalist Mudassar Naru and promised a “complete report” of his whereabouts.<sup>25</sup> This is yet to be provided.
15. On 26 June 2021, political activist Seengar Noonari, Labor Secretary of the Awami Workers Party (AWP) was abducted from his house by 15 men in plainclothes. His abduction occurred the day before a day of protests was being organized by the AWP against allegedly illegal land grabs by private property developers. For five weeks, Seengar Noonari’s family was not informed of his fate and whereabouts. On 1 August 2021, he was released without charge and returned to his family.<sup>26</sup>
16. Intimidation of families and victims continues years after the enforced disappearance has taken place and can sometimes continue after the person is returned, including heavy-handed surveillance, threatening calls from blocked numbers and even phishing attacks on personal devices. Sammi Baloch, a Baloch activist whose father was forcibly disappeared, had her phone hacked, and her photos and messages deleted in a phishing attack.<sup>27</sup>
17. Families are sometimes given false hope that if they stay silent their loved one will return. Idris Khattak disappeared on 19 November 2019. For the first six months, the family was told through unofficial backchannels with the security agencies to endure his disappearance quietly and, if they did, he would be returned. There was no movement on his case until his daughter Talia began publicly campaigning for his return and resulting in a rare admission from the Ministry of Defence that Idris Khattak was kept in custody. He was later tried by a military court in secret for treason.<sup>28</sup> He has now been moved to Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi after being reportedly sentenced to 14 years in jail.<sup>29</sup>

### Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

18. Amnesty International has documented multiple cases of violent discriminatory attacks against persons and properties following a blasphemy allegation against them, that have victimized Ahmadi Muslims, and people

belonging to other religious minorities. Even Muslims have been put at risk of death upon conviction (owing to the mandatory death sentence) or even at the hands of the communities they live in.

19. In May 2021, a police station was besieged by a group of people who demanded that a man accused of blasphemy be handed over to them in an attempt to lynch him.<sup>30</sup> Similarly, in December 2021, a Sri Lankan national Priyantha Kumara was brutally beaten to death and set on fire. While case resulted in some convictions<sup>31</sup>, there does not seem to be any progress towards repealing or substantially amending Section 295 of the Pakistan Criminal Penal Code.
20. In July 2020, the government bowed to pressure from a discriminatory campaign mounted by politicians and clerics to halt the construction of the first Hindu temple and community center in Islamabad.<sup>32</sup>
21. In December 2019, Junaid Hafeez, a professor, was sentenced to death for blasphemy by a court in Multan. He has been imprisoned since 2013, spending much of that time in solitary confinement.<sup>33</sup>
22. In August 2021, at least 10 places of worship for Ahmadi Muslims were desecrated – at times by the police or with their acquiescence.<sup>34</sup> To date, no effective investigation has been initiated.
23. In January 2021, the Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA) banned access to the US-based website trueislam.com, which documents the activities of the Ahmadi community in the USA – part of a broader pattern of discrimination against the religious group and state overreach. The PTA issued notices to Google and Wikipedia to remove “sacrilegious content”.<sup>35</sup> This trend continued for most of 2021, with notices being issued to websites registered in Singapore, Sweden and the United Kingdom.<sup>36</sup>

## Freedom of Expression

24. Since the previous review, human rights defenders and journalists have been targeted and charged under draconian laws, including PECA, the Anti-Terrorism Act, and section 124-A of the Penal Code. The government has unduly curtailed media freedoms, and journalists report experiencing growing censorship, coercion, harassment and even violence by the authorities.
25. On 25 May 2021, journalist Asad Ali Toor, was assaulted by three men who forcibly entered his apartment in Islamabad. The men identified themselves as from security agencies, interrogated Toor about his funding, and took his electronic devices.<sup>37</sup> An investigation was ordered into the attack but was ultimately dropped by the Federal Investigative Agency summoning Toor for questioning for “defaming” Pakistan.<sup>38</sup> In July 2022, journalist Ayaz Amir was violently attacked by unidentified men hours after delivering a speech in which he criticized the country’s military establishment. An investigation was announced, but at the time of writing, none of the perpetrators had been identified.<sup>39</sup>
26. Section 6 of the November 2021 Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act prohibits journalists from “spreading false information.”<sup>40</sup> In view of the broad and vague formulation of this offence, this section may be misused to further harass and target critical voices. Moreover, authorities can initiate criminal proceedings against journalists for advocacy of “hatred”, an offence that is equally broadly formulated and may be used to restrict freedom of expression.

## Sexual and gender-based violence

27. Pakistan supported numerous recommendations<sup>41</sup> in the previous review on ending violence against women but since then women and girls in Pakistan have continued to face abduction, physical assault, rape and murder, and access to justice remains laden with obstacles. Few, if any, perpetrators have been held to account.
28. In June 2019, the Supreme Court’s then Chief Justice announced the establishment of 1,016 special courts to hear domestic violence cases.<sup>42</sup> It is hoped that their prompt and swift formation can help improve access to justice.

29. In July 2021, Zahir Jaffer was arrested for the brutal murder of Noor Mukadam, whom he had held hostage at his home for more than 36 hours. Forensic investigations found that he had tortured, raped and shot Noor before beheading her. In February 2022, Jaffer was found guilty by a local court and sentenced to death.<sup>43</sup> While this conviction is significant, Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception and calls for far-reaching procedural and institutional reform to meaningfully address sexual and gender-based violence in Pakistan.
30. Despite the passage of the Transgender Rights Act 2018, members of the beleaguered community continue to face violence. By April 2022, there were reports of at least five transgender women being killed in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.<sup>44</sup>

## Climate justice

31. Pakistan is projected to be among the countries worst affected by rising temperatures over the coming decades, with recent joint findings by the Asian Development Bank and World Bank highlighting its heightened risk of extreme climate events and food insecurity (given the implications for the country's agricultural sector).<sup>45</sup> Pakistan's vulnerability is compounded by its low coping capacity.
32. From March to May 2022, Pakistan recorded some of the highest temperatures in the country for the last six decades.<sup>46</sup> In 2022, an estimated 65 people have died from the effects of the heatwaves, but the real numbers may be much higher.<sup>47</sup>
33. In Jacobabad, on at least four occasions since 1987, temperatures and humidity levels have reached a threshold described by experts as "hotter than a human body can handle." Marginalized groups such as people living in poverty, people with disabilities, people who work outdoors and women.<sup>48</sup>
34. Air pollution levels have frequently become hazardous in major Pakistani cities, particularly Lahore.<sup>49</sup> Despite promises by the government to implement the recommendations of an expert government-appointed anti-smog commission,<sup>50</sup> there have been few, if any steps taken to protect the rights to health, life and a healthy environment.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY THE STATE UNDER REVIEW

### Amnesty International calls on the government of Pakistan to:

#### Enforced disappearances

35. Immediately release all forcibly disappeared people or promptly bring them before a judge in a civilian court of law to rule on the lawfulness of their arrest or detention and whether they should be released.
36. As recommended in all three previous reviews, ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and incorporate it into domestic law.
37. Immediately and unconditionally disclose to families the fate and/or whereabouts of forcibly disappeared people.
38. As previously recommended, establish an independent inquiry into all suspected cases of enforced disappearance and hold those suspected to be responsible to account, which Pakistan had accepted to do in the previous review.

39. As previously recommended, criminalize enforced disappearances and ensure the current bill amending the Penal Code of Pakistan and any legislation on enforced disappearance conforms with international human rights law and standards.
40. Hold meaningful consultations with activists, civil society, and families of the disappeared on the proposed legal amendments to the draft bill on enforced disappearances.
41. Ensure victims and families of disappeared people are given full and effective reparations to address any hardships they have endured, including compensation, restitution, rehabilitation and guarantees of non-repetition.

#### **Freedom of thought, conscience and religion**

42. As previously recommended, repeal Sections 295-A, 295-B, 295-C, 298 B and 298 C of the Pakistan Penal Code.
43. Pending the repeal, commute all death sentences imposed under Section 295-C of the Penal Code.
44. Remove Sections 295-A and 298-A from the list of scheduled offences under the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997.
45. Urgently ensure the safety and security of all, in light of threats following allegations of blasphemy and “anti-state” activities by ensuring the protection of vulnerable groups, holding perpetrators to account, having prompt, impartial and effective investigations into incidents, and by providing them safe passage to safe spaces if their lives are so endangered.

#### **Freedom of Expression**

46. Amend the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016, in particular Sections 31, 3, and 37, to remove overbroad powers for monitoring and shutting down websites and retaining data.
47. Amend the Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act, in particular Section 6, to avoid broad and vague formulations that lack legal clarity and may be used to unlawfully restrict the right to freedom of expression.

#### **Sexual and gender-based violence**

48. Implement previously supported recommendations to pass and implement legislation to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, in line with international human rights law and standards as Pakistan had accepted to do in the previous review.
49. Implement previously supported recommendations to ensure prompt, impartial, effective and gender-sensitive investigations are carried out into incidents of violence against women or girls and members of the transgender community with the purpose of holding perpetrators to account without recourse to the death penalty and ensure victims can access justice and effective remedies.

#### **Climate justice**

50. Adopt and implement human rights-consistent adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures that will adequately protect people from the foreseeable and unavoidable impacts of the climate crisis, particularly the heatwaves.
51. Identify, in a participatory and human rights-consistent manner, the exact needs in terms of technology transfer and financial resources needed to complement Pakistan’s commitments to halve their emissions by as committed to at COP26.

## ANNEX 1

### KEY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR FURTHER REFERENCE

Pakistan: *End enforced disappearances now*, 6 November 2017

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/11/pakistan-end-enforced-disappearances-now/>

Pakistan: *Resolve hundreds of cases of enforced disappearances*, 19 March 2018 (Index Number: ASA 33/8091/2018)

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa33/8091/2018/en/>

Pakistan: *Enduring Enforced Disappearances*, 27 March 2019,

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/03/pakistan-enduring-enforced-disappearances/>

Pakistan: *Hazardous air puts lives at risk*, 30 October 2019, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/10/lahore-smog-kills-people/>

Pakistan: *Further information: Prime Minister rolls out plan to tackle smog crisis*, 9 January 2020 (Index Number: ASA

33/1645/2020) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa33/1645/2020/en/>

2019 in review – *Pakistan: Crackdown on human rights intensifies* (Index Number: ASA 01/1354/2020)

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/01/2019-pakistan-in-review/>

Pakistan: *Accusations of blasphemy continue to endanger lives*, 25 August 2020

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/08/accusations-of-blasphemy-in-pakistan-continue-to-endanger-lives/>

Pakistan: *The Disappeared of Balochistan*, 12 November 2020 (Index Number: ASA 33/3334/2020)

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa33/3334/2020/en/>

Pakistan: *Surge in Targeted Killings of Ahmadis*, 26 November 2020

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/11/pakistan-surge-in-targeted-killings-of-ahmadis/>

Pakistan: *Authorities must deliver on pledge to end cruelty of enforced disappearances*, 29 August 2021

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/08/pakistan-authorities-must-deliver-on-pledge-to-end-cruelty-of-enforced-disappearances/>

Pakistan: *Amendments to Enforced Disappearances Bill a Backward Step in Promised Reform*, Press Release, 17

October 2021 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/10/pakistan-amendments-to-enforced-disappearance-bill-a-backward-step-on-promised-reform/>

Pakistan: *Climate change measures must uphold human rights as country hosts World Environment Day*, 4 June 2021

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2021/06/pakistan-climate-measures-must-uphold-human-rights-as-country-hosts-world-environment-day/>

Pakistan: *Living Ghosts: The Devastating Impact of Enforced Disappearances in Pakistan*, 14 November 2021 (Index

Number ASA 33/4992/2021) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa33/4992/2021/en/>

Pakistan: *Extreme Weather: Searing Heatwaves and Torrential Rains in Pakistan, and their impact on human rights*, 8 July

2022 (Index Number ASA 33/5828/2022) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa33/5828/2022/en/>

## ANNEX 2

### MATRIX OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS CYCLE, WITH COMMENTS ON PROGRESS

Recommendation	Position	Full list of themes	Amnesty International's assessment/comments on level of implementation
<b>Theme: A12 Acceptance of international norms</b>			
152.8 Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Senegal); Accede to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Honduras); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	A12 Acceptance of international norms F12 Discrimination against women S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment <b>Affected persons:</b> - women	<b>Fully implemented.</b> Pakistan acceded to CEDAW on 12 March 1996.
<b>Theme: A22 Cooperation with treaty bodies</b>			
152.32 Continue its cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms to protect and promote these rights (State of Palestine); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	A22 Cooperation with treaty bodies A24 Cooperation with special procedures A26 Cooperation with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	<b>Not yet implemented.</b> Pakistan has not issued any standing invitations to special procedures mandate holders
<b>Theme: A41 Constitutional and legislative framework</b>			
152.38 Accelerate the domestication of the provisions of the international human rights instruments to which it is a party (Zimbabwe); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	A41 Constitutional and legislative framework <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	<b>Not yet implemented.</b> Proposed laws on enforced disappearances, torture and custodial deaths have lapsed without taking effect in law
152.39 Continue efforts to review national laws to ensure that they are in line with their international human rights obligations (Cuba); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	A41 Constitutional and legislative framework <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	<b>Not yet implemented.</b>
152.40 Continue to codify all legislation related to human rights, with a view to transforming it into one national system (Turkey); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	A41 Constitutional and legislative framework <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	<b>Not yet implemented.</b>
<b>Theme: A43 Human rights policies</b>			



Recommendation	Position	Full list of themes	Amnesty International's assessment/comments on level of implementation
152.41 Continue to implement its commitments on the promotion of human rights (Libya); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	A43 Human rights policies <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	<b>Not yet implemented.</b>
152.63 Finalize the national policy framework on human rights, in consultation with stakeholders (Sri Lanka); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	A43 Human rights policies <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	<b>Not yet implemented.</b>
<b>Theme: A44 Structure of the national human rights machinery</b>			
152.50 Fully staff and fund the national human rights institutions outlined in its Action Plan for Human Rights in order to better collect and analyse disaggregated data in support of laws, policies and safeguards related to women and girls (Canada); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	A44 Structure of the national human rights machinery A45 National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) A46 National Plans of Action on Human Rights (or specific areas) S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	<b>Not yet implemented.</b> The National Commission on Human Rights remained defunct after the expiry of its mandate in 2019, until November 2021. The NCHR continues to suffer from major financial and resource constraints
152.55 Step up measures to strengthen the work of local human rights institutions, including the National Commission for Human Rights, the National Commission on the Status of Women and the National Commission for Minorities (Saudi Arabia); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	A44 Structure of the national human rights machinery A45 National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) F11 Advancement of women G1 Members of minorities S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S10 SDG 10 - inequality S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - general - women - minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups	<b>Not yet implemented.</b>
152.45 Strengthen the role and effectiveness of the Ministry of Human Rights and the National Commission for Human Rights, in accordance with international human rights standards (State of Palestine); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	A44 Structure of the national human rights machinery A45 National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	<b>Not yet implemented.</b>
<b>Theme: A45 National Human Rights Institution (NHRI)</b>			

Recommendation	Position	Full list of themes	Amnesty International's assessment/comments on level of implementation
152.53 Adjust the mandate and responsibilities of the National Commission for Human Rights in accordance with the Paris Principles and provide it with sufficient financial resources to carry out its activities effectively (Guatemala); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	A45 National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) A63 Budget and resources (for human rights implementation) S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	Not yet implemented.
152.54 Enhance the independence and effectiveness of the National Commission for Human Rights through provision of adequate human and financial resources (Indonesia); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	A45 National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) A63 Budget and resources (for human rights implementation) S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	Partly implemented.
152.49 Take all the necessary measures to ensure that the National Commission for Human Rights is in line with the Paris Principles (Portugal); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	A45 National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	Partly implemented.
<b>Theme: A46 National Plans of Action on Human Rights (or specific areas)</b>			
152.58 Continue its efforts to implement the national Action Plan for Human Rights (Sudan); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	A46 National Plans of Action on Human Rights (or specific areas) <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	Partly implemented.
152.59 Continue to take steps to implement the national Action Plan for Human Rights (Sri Lanka); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	A46 National Plans of Action on Human Rights (or specific areas) <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	Partly implemented.
152.62 Make greater efforts to implement the national Action Plan for Human Rights and the national policy framework on human rights (Bhutan); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	A46 National Plans of Action on Human Rights (or specific areas) A43 Human rights policies <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	Partly implemented.

Recommendation	Position	Full list of themes	Amnesty International's assessment/comments on level of implementation
<p>152.64 Continue the implementation of the national Action Plan for Human Rights, and finalize the draft national policy framework on human rights (Indonesia);</p> <p><b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4</p>	Supported	<p>A46 National Plans of Action on Human Rights (or specific areas)</p> <p>A43 Human rights policies</p> <p><b>Affected persons:</b> - general</p>	Partly implemented.
<p>152.65 Implement the national Action Plan for Human Rights and the national policy framework on human rights referred to in chapter XII of the national report (United Arab Emirates);</p> <p><b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4</p>	Supported	<p>A46 National Plans of Action on Human Rights (or specific areas)</p> <p>A43 Human rights policies</p> <p><b>Affected persons:</b> - general</p>	Partly implemented.
<b>Theme: B31 Equality &amp; non-discrimination</b>			
<p>152.79 Support legislative policies to protect vulnerable groups with the necessary financial resources to ensure their implementation (United Arab Emirates);</p> <p><b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4</p>	Supported	<p>B31 Equality &amp; non-discrimination</p> <p>A41 Constitutional and legislative framework</p> <p>A63 Budget and resources (for human rights implementation)</p> <p>S10 SDG 10 - inequality</p> <p><b>Affected persons:</b> - vulnerable persons/groups</p>	Not yet implemented.
<p>152.91 Rapidly adopt and implement the two draft bills recently tabled in the National Assembly to ensure the rights of transgender persons (Spain);</p> <p><b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4</p>	Supported	<p>B31 Equality &amp; non-discrimination</p> <p>A41 Constitutional and legislative framework</p> <p>S10 SDG 10 - inequality</p> <p><b>Affected persons:</b> - lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI)</p>	Partly implemented. Transgender Rights Act passed but implementation remains weak and there are attempts being made to roll back on some of the gains. <sup>51</sup> Transgender community remains at risk, spate of attacks reported. <sup>52</sup>
<p>152.81 Continue its efforts to improve the protection of human rights, especially by eliminating discrimination based on sex, race, caste and religion (Holy See);</p> <p><b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4</p>	Supported	<p>B31 Equality &amp; non-discrimination</p> <p>B32 Racial discrimination</p> <p>F12 Discrimination against women</p> <p>D42 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion</p> <p>S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment</p> <p>S10 SDG 10 - inequality</p> <p><b>Affected persons:</b> - women - minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups - lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI) - vulnerable persons/groups</p>	Not yet implemented. The constitution continues to discriminate against Ahmadi Muslims and blasphemy laws are still used to harass and target religious minorities (see section above on freedom of religion and belief)

Recommendation	Position	Full list of themes	Amnesty International's assessment/comments on level of implementation
<p>152.83 Adopt the necessary legislative or regulatory measures to combat all forms of discrimination, particularly against ethnic or religious minorities (Côte d'Ivoire);</p> <p><b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4</p>	Supported	<p>B31 Equality &amp; non-discrimination B32 Racial discrimination G1 Members of minorities A41 Constitutional and legislative framework D42 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion S10 SDG 10 - inequality</p> <p><b>Affected persons:</b> - minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups</p>	Not yet implemented
<p>152.84 Make greater efforts to investigate complaints and prosecute those that commit crimes against ethnic and religious minorities, such as the Hazaras, Dalits, Christians, Hindus and Ahmadis (Argentina);</p> <p><b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4</p>	Supported	<p>B31 Equality &amp; non-discrimination B32 Racial discrimination G1 Members of minorities B51 Right to an effective remedy B52 Impunity D42 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion S10 SDG 10 - inequality</p> <p><b>Affected persons:</b> - minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups</p>	Not yet implemented
<p>152.75 Maintain efforts to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, considering their specific needs and capacities, through the empowerment of their rights and fair reparation mechanisms (Ecuador);</p> <p><b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4</p>	Supported	<p>B31 Equality &amp; non-discrimination B51 Right to an effective remedy S10 SDG 10 - inequality</p> <p><b>Affected persons:</b> - vulnerable persons/groups</p>	Not yet implemented
<p>152.77 Identify gaps for further protection and harmonization of vulnerable groups, including religious minorities (Ethiopia);</p> <p><b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4</p>	Supported	<p>B31 Equality &amp; non-discrimination D42 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion G1 Members of minorities S10 SDG 10 - inequality</p> <p><b>Affected persons:</b> - minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups - vulnerable persons/groups</p>	Not yet implemented
<p>152.92 Ensure that the 2017 law, which is presently being reviewed, on the recognition of the rights of intersex and transgender persons pays the necessary attention to both transgender women and men (Albania);</p> <p><b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4</p>	Supported	<p>B31 Equality &amp; non-discrimination F12 Discrimination against women A41 Constitutional and legislative framework S10 SDG 10 - inequality</p> <p><b>Affected persons:</b> - women - lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI)</p>	Implemented

Recommendation	Position	Full list of themes	Amnesty International's assessment/comments on level of implementation
152.248 Enforce effectively both the existing and new laws to promote and protect the rights of women and children, as well as members of religious minorities, in order to promote tolerance and an inclusive society (Thailand); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	B31 Equality & non-discrimination F12 Discrimination against women F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection D42 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion G1 Members of minorities S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S10 SDG 10 - inequality <b>Affected persons:</b> - women - children - minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups	<b>Not yet implemented.</b>
152.78 Continue implementing measures to safeguard the rights of women, children and other marginalized and vulnerable segments of society (Nepal); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	B31 Equality & non-discrimination F12 Discrimination against women F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S10 SDG 10 - inequality <b>Affected persons:</b> - women - children - vulnerable persons/groups	<b>Not yet implemented.</b> Efforts to ramp up punishments have been made, proposing harsh and cruel, inhuman and degrading punishments for rape of women and children – which have been rolled back.
152.73 Continue adopting effective measures to fight against discrimination (Saudi Arabia); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	B31 Equality & non-discrimination S10 SDG 10 - inequality <b>Affected persons:</b> - general - women - minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups - lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI) - vulnerable persons/groups	<b>Not yet implemented.</b>
152.80 Continue to adopt measures to protect the rights of vulnerable groups in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	B31 Equality & non-discrimination S10 SDG 10 - inequality <b>Affected persons:</b> - vulnerable persons/groups - persons living in rural areas	<b>Not yet implemented.</b>
<b>Theme: B71 Human rights and the environment</b>			
152.97 Consider conducting an assessment of the effects of air, water and soil pollution on children's health with a view to designing a well-resourced strategy to address the situation (Ghana); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	B71 Human rights and the environment F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection E26 Human Rights & drinking water and sanitation E41 Right to health - General S13 SDG 13 - climate change S14 SDG 14 - oceans S15 SDG 15 - biodiversity, forests, desertification <b>Affected persons:</b> - children	<b>Not yet implemented.</b> <sup>53</sup> Air quality remains a grave issue; anti-smog policy has not been implemented.

Recommendation	Position	Full list of themes	Amnesty International's assessment/comments on level of implementation
152.96 Continue to invest in green energy projects in order to provide clean and modern energy to all its people (Islamic Republic of Iran); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	B71 Human rights and the environment S07 SDG 7 - energy <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	Partly implemented.
<b>Theme: D25 Prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment</b>			
152.134 Take all the necessary steps to ensure that all perpetrators of torture are prosecuted and brought to justice (Slovakia); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	D25 Prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment B51 Right to an effective remedy B52 Impunity S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	Not yet implemented.
<b>Theme: D26 Conditions of detention</b>			
152.136 Take the necessary measures to improve detention facilities, including renewing its Prisons Act, which was enacted in 1894 (Republic of Korea); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	D26 Conditions of detention A41 Constitutional and legislative framework S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - persons deprived of their liberty	Not yet implemented.
<b>Theme: D27 Prohibition of slavery, trafficking</b>			
152.193 Develop a clear implementation and monitoring plan for all national and provincial legislation on bonded labour (Ireland); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	D27 Prohibition of slavery, trafficking A41 Constitutional and legislative framework A42 Institutions & policies - General G1 Members of minorities E32 Right to just and favourable conditions of work S08 SDG 8 - economic growth, employment, decent work S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - general - minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups	Not yet implemented.
152.189 Continue efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, particularly the exploitation of children, by reinforcing the fight against traffickers (Djibouti); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	D27 Prohibition of slavery, trafficking F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - general - children	Partly Implemented
<b>Theme: D29 Domestic violence</b>			

Recommendation	Position	Full list of themes	Amnesty International's assessment/comments on level of implementation
152.259 Adopt legislation that criminalizes domestic violence in all provinces and ensure, promote and facilitate the effective implementation of this legislation by, inter alia, providing training for law enforcement officers (Belgium); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	D29 Domestic violence D21 Right to life A41 Constitutional and legislative framework A53 Professional training in human rights S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - women - law enforcement / police officials	<b>Not yet implemented.</b> Bills to outlaw domestic violence blocked by parliamentarians (see section above on sexual and gender based violence)
152.258 Enact legislation on domestic violence in all provinces (Sweden); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	D29 Domestic violence D21 Right to life A41 Constitutional and legislative framework S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - general - women	<b>Not yet implemented.</b>
152.265 Set up effective legislative or others measures to protect women and children against domestic violence and all forms of ill-treatment (Luxembourg); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	D29 Domestic violence F13 Violence against women F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection A41 Constitutional and legislative framework D25 Prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - women - children	<b>Not yet implemented.</b>
<b>Theme: D32 Enforced disappearances</b>			
152.131 Make enforced disappearance a criminal offence and ensure that all allegations of enforced disappearance and extrajudicial executions are thoroughly investigated and those responsible brought to justice (Switzerland); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	D32 Enforced disappearances D22 Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions A41 Constitutional and legislative framework B52 Impunity B51 Right to an effective remedy S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	<b>Not yet implemented.</b> Draft legislation to criminalize enforced disappearances, did not conform with international human rights standards, and lapsed without being passed into law (see section above on enforced disappearances)
152.132 Conduct an independent inquiry into all suspected cases of enforced disappearances of human rights defenders and hold accountable those responsible (Germany); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	D32 Enforced disappearances H1 Human rights defenders B51 Right to an effective remedy S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - human rights defenders - disappeared persons	<b>Not yet implemented.</b>
<b>Theme: D42 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion</b>			

Recommendation	Position	Full list of themes	Amnesty International's assessment/comments on level of implementation
152.147 Finalize and fully implement the national policy on interfaith harmony, in order to, among other things, protect the rights of religious minorities (Namibia); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	D42 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion G1 Members of minorities B31 Equality & non-discrimination S10 SDG 10 - inequality <b>Affected persons:</b> - minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups	Not yet implemented.
152.163 Continue active work to ensure inter-confessional harmony within Pakistan (Russian Federation); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	D42 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion G1 Members of minorities B31 Equality & non-discrimination S10 SDG 10 - inequality S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups	Not yet implemented.
152.164 Continue adopting policies and measures to promote dialogue and tolerance among religions (Qatar); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	D42 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion G1 Members of minorities B31 Equality & non-discrimination S10 SDG 10 - inequality S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups	Not yet implemented.
152.165 Strengthen measures with regard to the elimination of violence and discrimination against persons belonging to religious minorities (Georgia); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	D42 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion G1 Members of minorities B31 Equality & non-discrimination S10 SDG 10 - inequality S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups	Not yet implemented.
152.168 Take effective measures to protect persons belonging to minorities, including the Ahmadi community (France); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	D42 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion G1 Members of minorities B31 Equality & non-discrimination S10 SDG 10 - inequality S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups	Not yet implemented. Ahmadi Muslims continue to be targeted and harassed both online and offline, with websites being banned and graves desecrated.
152.166 Investigate all reports of violence against religious minorities and bring those responsible to justice (Norway); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	D42 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion G1 Members of minorities B51 Right to an effective remedy B52 Impunity B31 Equality & non-discrimination S10 SDG 10 - inequality S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups	Not yet implemented.

*Theme: D43 Freedom of opinion and expression*



Recommendation	Position	Full list of themes	Amnesty International's assessment/comments on level of implementation
152.173 Prevent impunity for crimes against journalists and media workers (Sweden); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	D43 Freedom of opinion and expression D21 Right to life B52 Impunity S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - media	<b>Not yet implemented.</b> Any investigations that are initiated into these incidents are unfruitful
152.175 Investigate all reports of attacks on journalists and human rights defenders, and bring the perpetrators to justice (Norway); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	D43 Freedom of opinion and expression D21 Right to life H1 Human rights defenders B51 Right to an effective remedy B52 Impunity S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - media - human rights defenders	<b>Not yet implemented.</b>
152.174 Protect independent journalists and the media against any intimidation or violence, including enforced disappearance (Czechia); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	D43 Freedom of opinion and expression D32 Enforced disappearances D21 Right to life S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - media	<b>Not yet implemented.</b> Asad Toor, Hamid Mir, Absar Alam, Asma Shirazi, Matiullah Jan, Ayaz Amir, Imran Riaz Khan are all journalists who have faced intimidation, violence, harassment and in one case, was forcibly disappeared.
152.176 Implement measures to protect the right to life and freedom of expression of journalists and human rights defenders, ensuring that the perpetrators of violence against them are brought to justice (Greece); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	D43 Freedom of opinion and expression H1 Human rights defenders D21 Right to life B51 Right to an effective remedy B52 Impunity S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - media - human rights defenders	<b>Not yet implemented.</b>
152.170 Intensify efforts aimed at efficiently safeguarding the freedom of expression (Cyprus); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	D43 Freedom of opinion and expression S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	<b>Not yet implemented.</b>
<b>Theme: D51 Administration of justice &amp; fair trial</b>			
152.137 Strengthen the functioning of the independent judiciary to enhance transparency and efficiency in judicial proceedings (Islamic Republic of Iran); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	D51 Administration of justice & fair trial S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - judges, lawyers and prosecutors	<b>Not yet implemented.</b>

Recommendation	Position	Full list of themes	Amnesty International's assessment/comments on level of implementation
152.138 Ensure the right to a fair trial for all and ban traditional and informal justice systems (Republic of Korea); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	D51 Administration of justice & fair trial S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	Not yet implemented.
152.141 Ensure due process is afforded to all persons accused of criminal offences, as well as protection from public persecution (Australia); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	D51 Administration of justice & fair trial S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	Not yet implemented.
152.143 Advance the efforts made to facilitate equitable access to justice for all, especially the poor and marginalized (Cuba); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	D51 Administration of justice & fair trial S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - vulnerable persons/groups - persons living in poverty	Not yet implemented.
<b>Theme: E22 Right to food</b>			
152.215 Prioritize policies and programmes on nutrition, vaccination and health workers to reduce maternal, neonatal, and child mortality, and make sufficient budgetary allocations (Islamic Republic of Iran); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	E22 Right to food E41 Right to health - General A63 Budget and resources (for human rights implementation) F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection F11 Advancement of women S02 SDG 2 - hunger and food security S03 SDG 3 - health S04 SDG 4 - education S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment <b>Affected persons:</b> - women - children	Partly implemented.
<b>Theme: E23 Right to adequate housing</b>			
152.209 Continue its efforts to ensure its people have access to affordable housing (Brunei Darussalam); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	E23 Right to adequate housing S07 SDG 7 - energy S11 SDG 11 - cities <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	Not yet implemented.
<b>Theme: E24 Right to social security</b>			
152.200 Further strengthen existing flagship programmes for social safety nets (Azerbaijan); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	E24 Right to social security E25 Human rights & poverty S01 SDG 1 - poverty <b>Affected persons:</b> - general - persons living in poverty	Partly implemented.
<b>Theme: E43 Access to sexual and reproductive health and services</b>			

Recommendation	Position	Full list of themes	Amnesty International's assessment/comments on level of implementation
152.219 Ensure women's rights concerning their sexual and reproductive health through an enabling policy (Iceland); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	E43 Access to sexual and reproductive health and services E41 Right to health - General F12 Discrimination against women F11 Advancement of women S03 SDG 3 - health S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment <b>Affected persons:</b> - women	Not yet implemented
<b>Theme: F11 Advancement of women</b>			
152.245 Launch government programmes to raise the awareness of women about their constitutionally guaranteed rights (Bahrain); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	F11 Advancement of women A41 Constitutional and legislative framework A54 Awareness raising and dissemination S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment <b>Affected persons:</b> - women	Partly implemented.
152.239 Continue the implementation of the laws on the protection of women (France); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	F11 Advancement of women F12 Discrimination against women A41 Constitutional and legislative framework S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment <b>Affected persons:</b> - women	Not yet implemented
152.199 Continue to provide financial and other forms of support to women and other vulnerable groups (Azerbaijan); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	F11 Advancement of women F12 Discrimination against women B31 Equality & non-discrimination S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S10 SDG 10 - inequality <b>Affected persons:</b> - women - vulnerable persons/groups	Not yet implemented
152.244 Consolidate the protection of women's human rights with new mechanisms and laws in this area (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	F11 Advancement of women F12 Discrimination against women F13 Violence against women A41 Constitutional and legislative framework A42 Institutions & policies - General S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment <b>Affected persons:</b> - women	Not yet implemented
152.242 Continue efforts aiming at empowering women, combating social and economic discrimination and protecting them from violence (Poland); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	F11 Advancement of women F12 Discrimination against women F13 Violence against women S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - women	Not yet implemented
152.240 Continue efforts to promote and protect the role and status of women (Lebanon); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	F11 Advancement of women F12 Discrimination against women S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment <b>Affected persons:</b> - women	Not yet implemented

Recommendation	Position	Full list of themes	Amnesty International's assessment/comments on level of implementation
152.243 Continue implementation of initiatives to encourage the empowerment of women, in particular in rural areas (Bulgaria); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	F11 Advancement of women F12 Discrimination against women S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment <b>Affected persons:</b> - women - persons living in rural areas	<b>Not yet implemented</b>
<b>Theme: F12 Discrimination against women</b>			
152.235 Take urgent measures to protect women and girls against discrimination and gender disparities, in particular by ensuring their access to education (Argentina); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	F12 Discrimination against women F11 Advancement of women E51 Right to education - General S04 SDG 4 - education S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment <b>Affected persons:</b> - women - girls	<b>Not yet implemented</b>
152.246 Continue progress towards equality between women and men, increasing and strengthening the representation of women in politics, economics, academia and the judiciary. This also implies effective equality before the law, including inheritance rights, equal access to justice, equality in the effective exercise of their rights to education and health, and equal remuneration and access to credit and other financial services (Nicaragua); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	F12 Discrimination against women F11 Advancement of women F14 Participation of women in political and public life E41 Right to health - General E51 Right to education - General E32 Right to just and favourable conditions of work S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment <b>Affected persons:</b> - women	<b>Not yet implemented</b>
152.252 Enhance activities aimed at eliminating discrimination against women and gender-based violence (Kyrgyzstan); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	F12 Discrimination against women F13 Violence against women D21 Right to life D28 Gender-based violence S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - women	<b>Not yet implemented</b>
152.250 Continue to increase its efforts to prevent discrimination and violence against women (Japan); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	F12 Discrimination against women F13 Violence against women D21 Right to life S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - women	<b>Not yet implemented</b>

Recommendation	Position	Full list of themes	Amnesty International's assessment/comments on level of implementation
152.253 Strengthen its efforts to combat discrimination and violence against women and girls to allow them to enjoy their rights under conditions of equality (Ecuador); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	F12 Discrimination against women F13 Violence against women D21 Right to life S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - women - girls	Not yet implemented
152.273 Work on raising the legal marriage age to 18 years (Bahrain); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	F12 Discrimination against women F13 Violence against women D8 Rights related to marriage & family F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection B31 Equality & non-discrimination S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment <b>Affected persons:</b> - girls	Not yet implemented
152.241 Continue efforts to combat and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women (Tunisia); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	F12 Discrimination against women S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment <b>Affected persons:</b> - women	Not yet implemented
152.251 Continue to implement additional measures to prevent discrimination against women and girls (Maldives); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	F12 Discrimination against women S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment <b>Affected persons:</b> - women - girls	Not yet implemented
<b>Theme: F13 Violence against women</b>			
152.255 Expedite the finalization of the national policy on ending violence against women and girls (Bangladesh); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	F13 Violence against women A42 Institutions & policies - General D21 Right to life S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - women	Not yet implemented
152.256 Speed up the finalization of its national policy on ending violence against women and girls (South Africa); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	F13 Violence against women A42 Institutions & policies - General D21 Right to life S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - women - girls	Not yet implemented

Recommendation	Position	Full list of themes	Amnesty International's assessment/comments on level of implementation
152.262 Strengthen national legislation criminalizing violence against women in order to remove the existing loopholes that leave room for perpetrators to escape punishment (Uganda); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	F13 Violence against women D21 Right to life A41 Constitutional and legislative framework B51 Right to an effective remedy B52 Impunity S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - women	Not yet implemented
152.260 Complete the existing legislation in order to combat all forms of violence against women throughout its territory (Switzerland); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	F13 Violence against women D21 Right to life A41 Constitutional and legislative framework S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - women	Not yet implemented
152.261 Ensure effective and monitored enforcement of existing federal and provincial legislation related to violence against women (Sweden); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	F13 Violence against women D21 Right to life A41 Constitutional and legislative framework S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - women	Not yet implemented
152.267 Redouble efforts to enforce laws criminalizing gender-biased violence, such as the recently adopted laws against rape and "honour" crimes (Brazil); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	F13 Violence against women D28 Gender-based violence F12 Discrimination against women D21 Right to life A41 Constitutional and legislative framework S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - women	Not yet implemented
152.263 Implement, effectively and stringently, legislation criminalizing violence against women and domestic violence, including marital rape, and improve data collection mechanisms on violence against women (Slovenia); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	F13 Violence against women D29 Domestic violence D21 Right to life A41 Constitutional and legislative framework A62 Statistics and indicators S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - women	Not yet implemented
152.264 Enforce effectively all relevant laws criminalizing violence against women and domestic violence (Bosnia and Herzegovina); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	F13 Violence against women D29 Domestic violence D21 Right to life A41 Constitutional and legislative framework S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - women	Not yet implemented

Recommendation	Position	Full list of themes	Amnesty International's assessment/comments on level of implementation
<p>152.266 Abolish harmful customary practices against young girls in line with its commitments under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Iceland); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4</p>	Supported	<p>F13 Violence against women F12 Discrimination against women A23 Follow-up to treaty bodies S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - girls</p>	Not yet implemented
<p>152.269 Implement, fully and without delay, the law against "honour" crimes, which resolved an ambiguity that had allowed perpetrators to be pardoned by relatives of the victim (Croatia); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4</p>	Supported	<p>F13 Violence against women F12 Discrimination against women D21 Right to life A41 Constitutional and legislative framework B51 Right to an effective remedy B52 Impunity S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - women</p>	Not yet implemented
<p>152.271 Continue its efforts towards eradicating discrimination and violence against women and girls, including by fully implementing the laws against rape and "honour" crimes and thoroughly investigating and prosecuting all violations of those laws (New Zealand); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4</p>	Supported	<p>F13 Violence against women F12 Discrimination against women D21 Right to life A41 Constitutional and legislative framework B51 Right to an effective remedy B52 Impunity S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - women</p>	Not yet implemented
<p>152.268 Take effective measures to ensure the full implementation of the laws against "honour" crimes and rape and raise the legal age of marriage to 18 years in all provinces (Austria); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4</p>	Supported	<p>F13 Violence against women F12 Discrimination against women D21 Right to life A41 Constitutional and legislative framework S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - women - girls</p>	Not yet implemented
<p>152.257 Intensify its efforts to combat violence and discrimination against women and girls by ensuring that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished (Djibouti); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4</p>	Supported	<p>F13 Violence against women F12 Discrimination against women D21 Right to life B51 Right to an effective remedy B52 Impunity S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - women - girls</p>	Not yet implemented

Recommendation	Position	Full list of themes	Amnesty International's assessment/comments on level of implementation
152.270 Adopt measures that will enhance the implementation of legislation combating "honour" killings, rape, violence against women and domestic violence (Cyprus); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	F13 Violence against women F12 Discrimination against women D29 Domestic violence D21 Right to life A41 Constitutional and legislative framework S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - women	Not yet implemented
152.249 Strengthen efforts to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women and children by means of reinforcing the relevant legal framework, running awareness campaigns and ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice and victims receive appropriate help (Italy); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	F13 Violence against women F12 Discrimination against women F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection A41 Constitutional and legislative framework A54 Awareness raising and dissemination B51 Right to an effective remedy B52 Impunity D21 Right to life S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S10 SDG 10 - inequality S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - women - children	Not yet implemented
<b>Theme: G1 Members of minorities</b>			
152.182 Enforce the measures adopted to ensure the participation of minorities in public affairs (Egypt); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	G1 Members of minorities D7 Right to participation in public affairs and right to vote B31 Equality & non-discrimination B32 Racial discrimination S10 SDG 10 - inequality <b>Affected persons:</b> - minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups	Not yet implemented
152.183 Strengthen measures to ensure the participation of minorities in all spheres of national life (Zimbabwe); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Supported	G1 Members of minorities D7 Right to participation in public affairs and right to vote B31 Equality & non-discrimination B32 Racial discrimination S10 SDG 10 - inequality <b>Affected persons:</b> - minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups	Not yet implemented
<b>Theme: A12 Acceptance of international norms</b>			
152.1 Ratify the international conventions and protocols on human rights in order to enable its people to enjoy all their rights (Chad); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Noted	A12 Acceptance of international norms <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	Not yet implemented



Recommendation	Position	Full list of themes	Amnesty International's assessment/comments on level of implementation
152.25 Accede to and adapt its national legislation to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Guatemala); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Noted	A12 Acceptance of international norms A41 Constitutional and legislative framework B11 International humanitarian law B52 Impunity D51 Administration of justice & fair trial S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	Not yet implemented
152.26 Accede to and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Latvia); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Noted	A12 Acceptance of international norms A41 Constitutional and legislative framework B11 International humanitarian law B52 Impunity D51 Administration of justice & fair trial S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	Not yet implemented
152.17 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and adapt its national legislation to international standards in this regard (Chile); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Noted	A12 Acceptance of international norms A41 Constitutional and legislative framework D32 Enforced disappearances S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - disappeared persons	Not yet implemented
152.9 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and continue strengthening the legislation aimed at the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (Uruguay); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Noted	A12 Acceptance of international norms A41 Constitutional and legislative framework F12 Discrimination against women S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment <b>Affected persons:</b> - women	Not yet implemented
152.10 Develop indicators and a timeline for the implementation of the recent legislation on women's rights and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Germany); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Noted	A12 Acceptance of international norms A41 Constitutional and legislative framework F12 Discrimination against women S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment <b>Affected persons:</b> - women	Not yet implemented

Recommendation	Position	Full list of themes	Amnesty International's assessment/comments on level of implementation
152.24 Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Cyprus); Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Estonia); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Noted	A12 Acceptance of international norms B11 International humanitarian law B52 Impunity D51 Administration of justice & fair trial S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	Not yet implemented
152.7 Ratify the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and to the Convention against Torture, as well as the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Portugal); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Noted	A12 Acceptance of international norms D1 Civil & political rights - general measures of implementation D23 Death penalty D25 Prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment E1 Economic, social & cultural rights - general measures of implementation S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	Not yet implemented
152.5 Ratify the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to the Convention against Torture (Côte d'Ivoire); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Noted	A12 Acceptance of international norms D1 Civil & political rights - general measures of implementation D23 Death penalty D25 Prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	Not yet implemented
152.6 Ratify the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Guatemala); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Noted	A12 Acceptance of international norms D1 Civil & political rights - general measures of implementation D25 Prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment F12 Discrimination against women F41 Persons with disabilities: definition, general principles B31 Equality & non-discrimination S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment S10 SDG 10 - inequality S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - general - women - persons deprived of their liberty	Not yet implemented

Recommendation	Position	Full list of themes	Amnesty International's assessment/comments on level of implementation
152.4 Consider ratifying the two Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and, meanwhile, declare an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty, commuting death sentences to imprisonment (Uruguay); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Noted	A12 Acceptance of international norms D23 Death penalty D1 Civil & political rights - general measures of implementation S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - general - persons deprived of their liberty	Not yet implemented
152.20 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and establish its national preventive mechanism accordingly (Czechia); <b>Source of position:</b> A/HRC/37/Add.1 - Para. 4	Noted	A12 Acceptance of international norms D25 Prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment A42 Institutions & policies - General S16 SDG 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions <b>Affected persons:</b> - general	Not yet implemented

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- <sup>4</sup> A/HRC/37, recommendation 152.166 (Norway)
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- <sup>9</sup> Section 3, Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act: Concerns unauthorized access to information systems or data, predicated upon “dishonest intention” without explaining what the parameters of such a vague term may be [https://na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1470910659\\_707.pdf](https://na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1470910659_707.pdf)
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- <sup>11</sup> Section 37, Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act: Concerns unlawful content online, giving the Pakistan Telecommunications Authority unfettered powers to block or remove content. [https://na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1470910659\\_707.pdf](https://na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1470910659_707.pdf)
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