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ORAL STATEMENT
Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports: Finland

UN Human Rights Council
52nd session
27 February – 4 April 2023

Mr. President,

Amnesty International regrets that civil society was not consulted early in the process of preparing the government's response to the UPR recommendations.

Amnesty International deeply regrets that, despite supporting relevant recommendations, the government failed to adopt the reform of the Act on the Sámi Parliament that would have ended human rights violations identified by international treaty monitoring bodies and enhanced the protection of the rights of Sámi people.¹ The organisation urges the new government that will take office after the parliamentary elections in April to proceed with this reform immediately.

Amnesty International regrets Finland's outright rejection of all recommendations regarding conscientious objectors' rights even though the civilian alternatives to military service in Finland are clearly punitive and discriminatory.²

Amnesty International welcomes the legal gender recognition reform, and the support for recommendations regarding gender recognition for minors as well as protection of intersex children's bodily integrity.³ We regret the rejection of recommendations to adopt a comprehensive LGBTI action plan, which is urgently needed.⁴

Amnesty International welcomes the new legislation defining rape as based on lack of consent

¹ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Finland, 5 January 2023, A/HRC/52/9 recommendations 138.21-26 and 138.199-201 [Norway, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Australia, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Germany, Chile, China].

² Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Finland, 5 January 2023, A/HRC/52/9 recommendations 138.78-82 [Uruguay, Croatia, Luxembourg, Panama, Costa Rica].

³ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Finland, 5 January 2023, A/HRC/52/9 recommendations 138.204-205 and 138.209-212 [Argentina, Canada, Iceland, Mexico, Israel, Australia].

⁴ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Finland, 5 January 2023, A/HRC/52/9 recommendations 138.206-208 [Iceland, Spain, Netherlands].

as well as Finland's support for many recommendations on violence against women.⁵ We regret the rejection of the recommendation to review criminal legislation to reflect the aggravating factors required under Article 46 of the Istanbul Convention.⁶

Mr President

Finland's support for recommendations to facilitate family reunification for refugees and make the best interests of the child a primary consideration in all immigration decisions is also welcome,⁷ though we regret the rejection of recommendations to prohibit immigration detention of children⁸ and reintroduce residence permits on humanitarian grounds⁹ and urge Finland to reverse its position.

Amnesty International calls on Finland to guarantee adequate resources for the implementation of supported recommendations related to the right to social security, right to health¹⁰ and climate change.¹¹

Finally, we encourage Finland to implement supported recommendations as soon as possible and welcome the government's commitment to submit a mid-term report to this Council.¹²

Thank you.

⁵ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Finland, 5 January 2023, A/HRC/52/9 recommendations 138.34-35, 138.87-89, 138.135-153, 138.155 and 138.158-178 [Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), United States of America, Ukraine, China, Greece, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Italy, Lithuania, Malaysia, Nepal, Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, France, Cambodia, Cyprus, Germany, Iceland, India, Israel, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Slovenia, Spain, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Uruguay, Belarus].

⁶ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Finland, 5 January 2023, A/HRC/52/9 recommendation 138.37 [Spain].

⁷ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Finland, 5 January 2023, A/HRC/52/9 recommendations 138.179-180 and 138.225-226 [Uruguay, Mexico, Montenegro, Tunisia].

⁸ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Finland, 5 January 2023, A/HRC/52/9 recommendations 138.181-185 [China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Zambia, Philippines, Sierra Leone].

⁹ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Finland, 5 January 2023, A/HRC/52/9 recommendation 138.227 [Portugal].

¹⁰ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Finland, 5 January 2023, A/HRC/52/9 recommendations 138.101-108 and 138.111-118 [Cambodia, Croatia, South Sudan, Slovenia, Pakistan, Tunisia, Malta, Mauritius, Belarus, China, Maldives, Estonia, Panama, Sierra Leone, Portugal, Cambodia].

¹¹ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Finland, 5 January 2023, A/HRC/52/9 recommendation 138.126-128 [Samoa, Cyprus].

¹² Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Finland, Addendum, 16 March 2023, A/HRC/52/9/Add.1.