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and

Frente por la Libertad de Expresión y la Protesta Social

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. CIVICUS is a global alliance of civil society organisations (CSOs) and activists dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society around the world. Founded in 1993, CIVICUS promotes marginalised voices, particularly from the Global South, and has members in more than 170 countries.
- 1.2. The Front for the Freedom of Expression and Social Protest (FLEPS) is a Mexican coalition of organisations and human rights defenders (HRDs) that promotes the human right to the freedom of expression and social protest.¹
- 1.3. In this submission, CIVICUS and FLEPS examine the Government of Mexico's compliance with its international human rights obligations to create and maintain a safe and enabling space for civil society. Specifically, we analyse the Mexican Government's actions and policies aimed at fulfilling the rights to the freedom of association, peaceful assembly and expression and improving the situation of HRDs since its previous UPR examination in October 2013. To this end, we assess the implementation of the recommendations received by Mexico during the 2nd UPR cycle relating to these issues and provide recommendations for follow-up.
- 1.4. During the 2nd UPR cycle, the Government of Mexico received and accepted 26 recommendations relating to the space for civil society (civic space). An evaluation of a range of legal sources and documentation addressed in subsequent sections of this submission demonstrates that the Government of Mexico has not implemented 25 of these recommendations, mostly concerning the effectiveness of the Protection Mechanism for HRDs. While some progress has been made in the implementation of this mechanism, there is a worryingly insufficient emphasis on prevention and a neglect of investigations, resulting in persistent patterns of impunity.
- 1.5. CIVICUS and FLEPS are deeply concerned about the threats and dangers faced by HRDs and journalists for doing their work, with an unprecedented number of murders.
- 1.6. CIVICUS and FLEPS are further alarmed by the growing tendency, expressed in both law and practice, to criminalise and repress social protest.

¹ FLEPS members are: Article 19 Office for Mexico and Central America, Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Francisco de Vitoria OP, Centro de Derechos Humanos Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez, Centro de Justicia para la Paz y el Desarrollo, Centro Nacional de Comunicación Social, Colectivo de Abogadas y Abogados Solidarios, Espacio Libre e Independiente Marabunta, Propuesta Cívica, Servicios y Asesoría para la Paz, Red de Organismos Civiles 'Todos los Derechos para Todas y Todos' and Resonar.

1.7. As a result of these restrictions in civil society rights, civic space in Mexico is currently rated as 'repressed' by the CIVICUS Monitor, indicating the existence of heavy constraints and high levels of danger for civil society activists.²

- Section 2 of this submission examines Mexico's implementation of UPR recommendations and compliance with international human rights standards concerning the freedom of association.
- Section 2 examines Mexico's implementation of UPR recommendations and compliance with international human rights standards related to the protection of HRDs, civil society activists and journalists.
- Section 3 examines Mexico's implementation of UPR recommendations and compliance with international human rights standards concerning the freedom of expression, independence of the media and access to information.
- Section 4 examines Mexico's implementation of UPR recommendations and compliance with international human rights standards related to the freedom of peaceful assembly.
- Section 5 offers a number of recommendations to address the concerns listed.

2. Freedom of association

2.1. During Mexico's examination under the 2nd UPR cycle, the government did not receive any specific recommendations on the right to the freedom of association and the creation of an enabling environment for CSOs. However, numerous violations of the freedom of association have been documented during the period under evaluation, as evidenced below.

2.2. Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Mexico is a state party, guarantees the freedom of association. Article 9 of the Mexican Constitution also recognises "the right to associate or assemble peacefully with any lawful object," limiting it to citizens when "political affairs" are concerned.³ Despite these commitments, the enjoyment of these rights has been hampered by the introduction of anti-money laundering regulations that hinder the funding of CSOs, frequent violations of trade union freedom and illegal surveillance used against critical organisations, activists and journalists.

² CIVICUS Monitor: Mexico, <https://monitor.civicus.org/country/mexico>.

³ Constitution of Mexico, <http://www.ordenjuridico.gob.mx/Constitucion/cn16.pdf>.

- 2.3. The freedom of association is regulated by the Federal Law for the Promotion of Activities carried out by CSOs (2004).⁴ There are no legal restrictions on foreign funding for CSOs;⁵ however, CSOs receiving foreign funding experience heavy burdens as a result of measures taken against terrorism and money laundering. The ‘Anti-Laundering Act’ of 2012, for instance, treats donations to CSOs as potentially vulnerable activities and obliges CSOs to report monthly donations above certain amounts and to enrol in a public registry before requesting donations.⁶ Recently, additional restrictions have been imposed by the private sector⁷ on top of the bureaucratic burdens already in force.⁸
- 2.4. The work of civil society is hampered by extra-legal factors, and in particular by the illegal surveillance of journalists, organisations and activists. Documents leaked in a data breach of July 2015 revealed that Mexico was the main global customer of the Hacking Team company.⁹ In addition, in 2017 it was revealed that the Mexican government had acquired and systematically used the NSO Group’s Pegasus espionage

⁴ Ley Federal de Fomento a las Actividades realizadas por Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil (2004), <http://goo.gl/yhqpxD>.

⁵ On the contrary, a tax treaty with the United States, in force since 1994, encourages philanthropic donations across the border between the two countries. See United States-Mexico Income Tax Convention (1993), <http://goo.gl/7hJqhB>.

⁶ Ley Federal para prevenir e identificar las Operaciones con Recursos de Procedencia Ilícita (2012), <http://goo.gl/mxQaFL>. See also ‘Closing Space for Civil Society and Cross-Border Philanthropy’, International Human Rights Funders Group, 20 October 2014, <https://goo.gl/VVAYTa>.

⁷ These include the imposition of excessive requirements for opening accounts or the denegation of basic financial services. See ‘Restricciones sutiles a la libertad de asociación’, Miguel De la Vega, Sur-Revista Internacional de Derechos Humanos, 2017, <http://goo.gl/ZbtyjT>.

⁸ According to the International Center for Non-Profit Law (ICNL), CSO activity is hampered by heavy bureaucratic requirements at the federal and state levels, such as the obligation to submit various financial and tax reports, reports to the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Social Development and the ministry in the organisation’s area of work, and specific reports for those receiving public funds, as well as requirements to undergo audits and provide information for the Transparency website. Sanctions vary according to which law is contravened, but may include the suspension of activities. See ‘Civic Freedom Monitor: Mexico’, ICNL, <http://www.icnl.org/research/monitor/mexico.html>.

⁹ The company had more than a dozen contracts with federal and state agencies, most of which lacked constitutional authority to conduct surveillance or espionage. See ‘Hacking Team hacked: firm sold spying tools to repressive regimes, documents claim’, The Guardian, 6 July 2015, <http://goo.gl/HM9yaZ>; ‘La filtración de Hacking Team exhibe a México como el que más compra recursos para espiar’, Global Voices, 7 July 2015, <http://goo.gl/qePf8s>.

software to monitor activists, researchers, lawyers and journalists.¹⁰ Despite a complaint filed with the Attorney General's Office (one of the government agencies that bought the Pegasus software), the investigation has so far not yielded any results. Additionally, some CSOs critical of the government and victims of illegal surveillance, and particularly those focused on anti-corruption, were subjected to repeated and unjustified fiscal audits.¹¹

2.5. According to the International Trade Union Confederation's (ITUC) Global Rights Index 2017, systematic violations of trade union rights take place in Mexico.¹² Independent unions suffer government interference, while informal and opaque negotiations between employers and politically linked union leaders prevail. Anti-union dismissals,¹³ obstacles to the holding of free elections¹⁴ and the repression of strikes and union protests are relatively frequent, as exemplified by the violent eviction of teachers organised in the National Coordination of Education Workers (CNTE), which left

¹⁰ Surveillance was carried out through the hacking of individuals' and organisations' mobile devices in order to gain access to messages, emails, cameras, calls and geolocation data, among other information. Among those affected were journalists, leading staff and activists from Aristegui Noticias, Mexicanos Contra la Corrupción y la Impunidad and consumer protection organisations, along with human rights organisations such as Centro Prodh, the CSO representing the families of the 43 missing Ayotzinapa students. See '#GobiernoEspía: Vigilancia sistemática a periodistas y defensores de derechos humanos', Article 19, R3D and SOCIALTIC, 2017, <http://goo.gl/3U38DZ>; 'Programas de espionaje fueron usados contra promotores de un impuesto a los refrescos en México', New York Times, 11 February 2017, <http://goo.gl/JnRNEs>; 'Lawyers for Murdered Mexican Women's Families Targeted with NSO Spyware', TheCitizenLab, 2 August 2017, <http://goo.gl/CNE5br>.

¹¹ 'Claudio X. González critica al gobierno; le llueven 10 auditorías', Expansión, 30 August 2017, <http://goo.gl/gkq9fo>.

¹² 'The 2017 ITUC Global Rights Index', ITUC, 2017, <http://goo.gl/Kpqb5p>. For a more detailed overview see 'La violación del derecho de la libertad sindical y la negociación colectiva en México. Informe presentado ante la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos', ITUC/CSA/UNT, 5 December 2016, <http://goo.gl/6oeUur>.

¹³ See, for example, the mobilisation of the National Union of Mineworkers, Metallurgists, Steelworkers and Similar Workers of the Mexican Republic (SNTMMSSRM), known as The Miners, demanding the reinstatement of 600 workers dismissed for seeking representation through a democratic union. See 'Los Mineros luchan contra los despidos en PKC y Teksid México', IndustriAll, 26 August 2016, <http://goo.gl/QVBv9t>.

¹⁴ See in this regard the case of the workers of Empresa Servicios y Desarrollos Meseta Central SA de CV, included in the ITUC/CSA/UNT report, 5 December 2016, op. cit.

several dead and many injured in Nochixtlán, Oaxaca, on 19 June 2016.¹⁵ Union leaders also suffer criminalisation in common with civil society activists.¹⁶

3. Harassment, intimidation and attacks against human rights defenders, civil society activists and journalists

- 3.1.** Under Mexico’s previous UPR examination, the government received and accepted 25 recommendations on the protection of HRDs, journalists and civil society representatives. The government therefore committed to, among other things, “strengthen the federal mechanism for the protection of defenders and journalists and provide it with preventive capacity” (148.117), provide it “with adequate resources and powers to carry out its work” and create “a mechanism for consultation with indigenous and other communities affected by land transactions” (148.119), and to “integrate gender perspective when addressing impunity and lack of safety of journalists and human rights defenders” (148.136). However, as examined in this section, the government did not operationalise these recommendations, with only one recommendation that was fully implemented.
- 3.2.** Article 12 of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders mandates states to take measures to protect HRDs. The ICCPR further guarantees the freedoms of association, assembly and expression. However, despite these protections, and despite the fact that Mexico has had a national protection mechanism since 2012, threats, intimidation and physical attacks against HRDs, civil society activists and journalists, at the hands of both state and non-state agents, have continued and increased to unprecedented levels.
- 3.3.** The establishment of the Protection Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders and Journalists was undeniably an advance. By the end of 2017, it had offered some form of protection to more than 600 people under threat. However, its implementation has faced

¹⁵ Enfrentamiento entre policías y manifestantes en Nochixtlán deja 6 muertos’, Animal Político, 20 June 2016, <https://goo.gl/SA3Tf1>.

¹⁶ This is attested to by the case of Rubén Sarabia Reyna, the leader of the Popular Union of Street Vendors, who spent three years in prison in reprisal for his political activities. He was arrested in Puebla in December 2014 on parole violation charges, just a few days after regaining his freedom following a prior case against him. His family claimed that Sarabia was arrested for refusing to put his organisation at the service of the government. Once incarcerated, drug trafficking charges were added to the case. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention concluded that his detention had been arbitrary and the result of political persecution ordered by the state governor. See ‘Exigen liberación de Simitrio tras resolución de la ONU sobre su detención arbitraria’, Desinformémonos, 11 November 2017, <http://goo.gl/4nJqMS>.

challenges that limit its effectiveness,¹⁷ as evidenced by the fact that at least one of the journalists killed in 2017 was a beneficiary of the programme.¹⁸ A recent diagnostic report by Espacio OSC also noted that the Protection Mechanism lacks a gender perspective to adequately protect women HRDs (WHRDs) and journalists,¹⁹ and stressed the need for comprehensive protection measures, such as collective measures for indigenous groups, as well as preventive measures directed at reducing impunity.

- 3.4. Despite the progress implied by the existence of the Protection Mechanism, Mexico continues to be inhospitable to citizen activism and human rights advocacy, for reasons ranging from high overall rates of violent crime linked to drug trafficking and the strategy of militarisation implemented in the context of the so-called ‘war against drug trafficking’, to the collusion with and infiltration of governments and security forces by criminal operations, and widespread corruption. This has resulted in severe human rights violations perpetrated by state and non-state actors, usually in collusion with the authorities or with their approval. The impunity that prevails for these crimes and rights violations, particularly in remote places that are usually out of reach of the international media, constitutes an additional incentive for their perpetuation.²⁰
- 3.5. The context is particularly hostile in the states of Chihuahua, Guerrero, Oaxaca and Veracruz, where HRDs and journalists are frequently threatened, stigmatised, criminalised and physically attacked by government and business actors, as well as by armed individuals linked to organised crime. WHRDs, environmental activists and indigenous peoples' rights activists mobilised against large-scale infrastructure projects

¹⁷ Outstanding issues include insufficient staffing, funding and training, weak coordination with and lack of cooperation from state and local governments, delays in the execution of risk analyses, delays in processing cases, the inability to provide timely and effective responses, and failure to implement measures. For an analysis of these problems and recommendations for improvements, see ‘The Mechanism to Protect Human Rights Defenders and Journalists in Mexico: Challenges and Opportunities’, Peace Brigades International/Washington Office on Latin America, January 2015, <http://goo.gl/6zpFGV>.

¹⁸ Cándido Ríos, a journalist of Diario de Acayucán who was murdered in Veracruz in August 2017, was under threat and had been a beneficiary of the Protection Mechanism since 2013. See ‘Condena ONU el asesinato del periodista Cándido Ríos Vázquez en Veracruz’, Vanguardia, 24 August 2017, <http://goo.gl/Phq87z>.

¹⁹ Consequently, the measures adopted do not address the specific situation of violence, inequality and discrimination experienced by women, nor the care obligations that many of them have towards family members or the possible impacts of aggressions against them. See ‘Protección integral para personas defensoras de derechos humanos y periodistas: La deuda del Estado mexicano’, Espacio OSC, 2017, <http://goo.gl/44xFiL>.

²⁰ Mexico ranks sixth in the world, and first in Latin America, in the 2017 edition of the Committee to Protect Journalists’ (CPJ) Global Impunity Index, which measures the degree of impunity in cases of murders of journalists. See ‘La impunidad por el asesinato de periodistas’, CPJ, 31 October 2017, <http://goo.gl/GDei1D>.

are particularly at risk.²¹ According to the annual count held by Global Witness,²² 15 environmental defenders, mostly indigenous peoples' rights activists, were killed in Mexico in 2017.²³

- 3.6.** According to official data, since 2006 more than 32,000 people have gone missing in Mexico. Although it is not clear how many of them have been victims of enforced disappearances, evidence gathered by civil society indicates that enforced disappearances are an extensive phenomenon that occurs at the hands of state agents, and specifically security forces, or with their participation, collusion or acquiescence. Activists who denounce and seek remedies for enforced disappearances are also at risk, and impunity prevails in most cases.²⁴ This situation has not changed after a Special Unit for the Search of Missing Persons was created within the Office of the Republic's General Prosecutor (2013), nor after it was subsequently turned into a Specialized Prosecutor's Office (2015).²⁵
- 3.7.** Enforced disappearances attracted the attention of the international community as protests mushroomed following the mass disappearance of 43 rural teacher training from Ayotzinapa in September 2014. To date, the whereabouts of the 43 remain unknown and their families continue to be denied access to justice. The case reflects the degree of macrocriminality that exists in the state of Guerrero. The reports of the

²¹ Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders on his mission to Mexico, 12 February 2018, A/HRC/37/51/Add.2, <http://goo.gl/wzQSfw>.

²² 'The Defenders Tracker', The Guardian, 2017, <http://goo.gl/TvK16a>.

²³ Among those killed were Isidro Baldenegro, an indigenous leader of the Tarahumara community mobilised in defence of the Sierra Madre against illegal logging, and Juan Ontiveros, an indigenous environmental defender who was threatened after denouncing the increasing presence and impact of organised crime in his community. Both were killed just a few weeks apart in the state of Chihuahua at the beginning of 2017. Among the most recent cases is that of the indigenous WHRD Guadalupe Campanur, in Michoacán state. See 'Isidro Baldenegro, Mexican Environmental Activist, is Shot to Death', New York Times, 18 January 2017, <http://goo.gl/mbpR7t>; 'Tarahumara human rights activist killed in Mexico', DW, 4 February 2017, <http://goo.gl/xyq2y6>; 'México es cada vez más peligroso para el activismo comunitario', Servindi, 26 January 2018, <http://goo.gl/HVY1t7>.

²⁴ Many missing people are not even searched for, and when they are, judicial investigations are often flawed and provide inconclusive results. See 'Mexico: Protect human rights activists working against enforced disappearances', International Service for Human Rights, 10 February 2015, <http://goo.gl/mbCKl4>; 'Situación de derechos humanos en México', Inter-American Commission on Human Rights / Organization of American States, 2015, <http://goo.gl/sUWwtL>; 'Mexico: Widespread Rights Abuses in 'War on Drugs'', Human Rights Watch, 9 November 2011, <https://goo.gl/Ok3fd2>; 'México: Eventos de 2014', in World Report, Human Rights Watch, 2015, <https://goo.gl/TGDo9l>.

²⁵ In November 2017 a General Law on Enforced Disappearances and Disappearances by Private Individuals was passed, which set up a National Search Commission, a Citizen Council and a National Registry of Missing and Unfound Persons. However, it is still too early to assess potential improvements. See Diario Oficial de la Federación, 21 June 2013, <http://goo.gl/vB5pwK> and 9 October 2015, <http://goo.gl/f4eBDB>; 'Presidente de México promulga Ley contra Desapariciones Forzadas', Telesur, 16 November 2017, <http://goo.gl/B6Zdxc>.

Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI), appointed by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), and the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team (EAAF), underscored the lack of scientific support for the official version of the events and documented irregularities in the investigation, including torture of detainees, possible fabrication of evidence and cover-up.²⁶

- 3.8.** According to Article 19's 2017 annual report, during the current six-year presidential term there have been 41 documented murders of journalists, along with 1,986 attacks against the press. In 2017 alone, 507 attacks took place and 12 journalists were killed. More than half of the attacks were perpetrated by public officials. According to the International Press Institute, 2017 ended with 14 Mexican journalists murdered, making Mexico the deadliest country in the world for journalism.²⁷ Four of the assassinated journalists were killed between March and April 2017 alone: Cecilio Pineda in Guerrero, Ricardo Monlui Cabrera in Veracruz, Miroslava Breach in Chihuahua and Maximino Rodríguez Palacios in Baja California Sur.²⁸ In other attacks during the same months, several journalists were seriously injured. Soon after, Norte, a newspaper in Ciudad Juárez, announced that it was discontinuing its print publication because it was too dangerous.²⁹
- 3.9.** Independent civil society activists and journalists who express criticism of the powerful in radio, television, print or digital media all run similar risks, and for similar reasons. The same applies to photojournalists documenting current events. In many cases, such as that of Agustín Pavia,³⁰ murdered on 13 September 2016 in Huajuapán de León,

²⁶ See Reports, GIEI, <http://http://goo.gl/WdMWhr>; Executive Summary, EAAF, <http://goo.gl/n7W1f1>.

²⁷ 'Violencia contra la prensa en México durante el primer semestre de 2017', Article 19, 17 August 2017, <http://goo.gl/eA97L1>; Death Watch, International Press Institute, <https://ipi.media/programmes/death-watch>.

²⁸ Miroslava Breach, in particular, was well known for her writings on corruption, human rights abuses and violence linked to drug-trafficking. See 'Journalist fatally shot while lying in hammock at car wash in Mexico', The Guardian, 3 March 2017, <https://goo.gl/nfV63W>; 'Another Mexican Journalist Murdered in Front of His Family', Telesur, 19 March 2017, <http://goo.gl/H9erhb>; 'Miroslava Breach, la periodista "incómoda" asesinada en México cuando llevaba a su hijo a la escuela', BBC Mundo, 24 March 2017, <http://goo.gl/72Sz14>; 'Asesinan a Maximino Rodríguez, periodista de Baja California Sur', Economía Hoy, 14 April 2017, <http://goo.gl/thbzgQ>; 'México: Le disparan en la puerta de su casa al periodista Armando Arrieta Granados', La Radio del Sur, 29 March 2017, <http://goo.gl/yJZfcv>.

²⁹ "'Adios!': Murder of Mexican Journalists Force Outlet to Close', Telesur, 3 April 2017, <http://goo.gl/JQn1nQ>. According to other sources, financial sustainability was also a contributing factor to the decision to shut down. See 'Norte de Ciudad Juárez cierra su edición impresa por falta de pagos de gobiernos', Al Margen, 2 April 2017, <http://goo.gl/nwTXGj>.

³⁰ 'Asesinan a segundo locutor de estación de radio comunitaria de Oaxaca', Article 19, 16 September 2016, <http://goo.gl/dAhdQj>.

Oaxaca, the activist and the journalist are one and the same person. There have been countless cases where journalists have had their homes or offices raided, looted, attacked with explosives or set on fire;³¹ been arrested and arbitrarily detained for covering public events and local elections, investigating fraud allegations or documenting police abuses;³² been followed, put under surveillance and photographed by security forces or unidentified individuals; beaten or detained by public or private security agents while covering protests or social conflicts;³³ been defamed on social media, criminalised from the public lectern³⁴ and issued with death threats online or by phone, mostly anonymous, although sometimes with signed and occasionally macabre messages sent by various means or given in person by politicians' and public officials' bodyguards or other armed individuals;³⁵ been physically assaulted and, in the extreme,

³¹ See, for instance, 'Incendian vivienda de reportero en Los Cabos', El Universal, 19 December 2016, <http://goo.gl/s2B1b1>; 'Allanan domicilio de periodista que sigue proceso electoral del Edomex', Article 19, 6 May 2017, <http://goo.gl/eCKYxp>; 'Atacan con explosivos el domicilio de fotoperiodista en Guanajuato', Article 19, 27 November 2017, <http://goo.gl/NvPEfg>; 'Incendian domicilio de director de medio en Oaxaca tras la publicación de supuestos actos de corrupción', Article 19, 26 December 2017, <http://goo.gl/KReYGG>.

³² See, for example, 'Detienen a reporteros que cubrían elecciones', Periodistas en Riesgo, 5 June 2016, <http://goo.gl/1cR3Qr>; 'Detención arbitraria de fotoperiodista en Chiapas', Periodistas en Riesgo, 18 August 2016, <http://goo.gl/WfnXsd>; 'Reportero en Chiapas es detenido arbitrariamente durante 24 horas', Article 19, 26 August 2016, <http://goo.gl/c9xWdg>; 'Reportero es agredido y detenido arbitrariamente durante 15 horas en Sabinas, Coahuila', Article 19, 22 August 2017, <http://goo.gl/T1jqN9>. For a report on aggressions against the press in an electoral context, see 'Suman 19 agresiones contra la prensa durante elecciones', Article 19, 6 June 2017, <http://goo.gl/xRhCKo>; 'Policía Municipal de Chihuahua agrade a fotoperiodista y pide quitar contenido a prensa local', Article 19, 15 December 2017, <http://goo.gl/w9YKd5>.

³³ See, for example, 'Gendarmería golpea a periodista de EL UNIVERSAL', El Universal, 7 January 2017, <http://goo.gl/Wh7cck>; 'Gendarmes agreden a 3 reporteros durante desalojo de planta de Pemex en Tijuana', Animal Político, 7 January 2017, <http://goo.gl/WGp44r>; 'Agentes de seguridad en Jalisco impiden investigación de periodistas sobre conflicto socioambiental', Article 19, 29 August 2017, <http://goo.gl/v3rtyV>.

³⁴ See, for instance, 'Alcalde de Tuxtla Gutiérrez promueve campaña de desprestigio contra periodistas críticas', Article 19, 8 November 2017, <http://goo.gl/VwMzzL>.

³⁵ See, for instance, 'Personal de alcalde en Chiapas continúa agresiones contra reportero', Article 19, 7 October 2016, <http://goo.gl/V4z7sK>; 'Amenazas contra dos periodistas en Quintana Roo deben ser investigadas por FEADLE con celeridad', Article 19, 20 July 2017, <http://goo.gl/HyBJQ3>; 'Gobierno municipal criminaliza a periodista amenazado en Tabasco y asegura que es un "autoatentado"', Article 19, 21 July 2017, <http://goo.gl/5JnKYG>; 'Amenaza contra Lydia Cacho exhibe omisión del Estado en garantizar su seguridad', Article 19, 25 July 2017, <http://goo.gl/ufjLy4>; 'Héctor de Mauleón recibe nuevamente amenazas de muerte', El Universal, 16 August 2017, <http://goo.gl/CuAAzk>; 'Two human heads found outside broadcaster's office in Mexico', Reuters, 29 November 2017, <http://goo.gl/DPQvqt>; 'Desde el mismo número telefónico amenazan e intimidan a defensor de derechos humanos y a corresponsal de Proceso', Article 19, 13 December 2017, <http://goo.gl/xiZGgk>.

kidnapped, tortured and eventually killed for covering issues related to local politics, corruption, violence by the security forces, organised crime and drug trafficking.³⁶

3.10. Impunity prevails in the face of attacks against journalists. According to estimates by the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH), only 10 per cent of cases of violent attacks against journalists end in a conviction. In its first seven years of existence, the Special Prosecutor's Office for the Attention of Crimes against the Freedom of Expression (FEADLE), established in June 2010, initiated 989 inquiries and obtained only three convictions, yielding a 99.6 per cent impunity rate.³⁷

4. Freedom of expression, independence of the media and access to information

4.1. Under the 2nd UPR cycle, the government received and supported two recommendations relating to the freedom of expression, apart from those that referred specifically to the threats faced by journalists, as summarised in the preceding section. In that regard, the government committed to “strengthen the Special Prosecutor for Attention to Crimes against Freedom of Expression (FEADLE), and ensure reparation for the victims” (148.129). These recommendations have not been implemented, and no significant improvement has been achieved in the conditions for the exercise of the freedom of expression.

4.2. Article 19 of the ICCPR guarantees the right to the freedoms of expression and opinion. Articles 6 and 7 of the Constitution of Mexico also guarantee the right to the freedom of expression and freedom of the press, as well as the right to information and to the privacy of personal communications. In 2013, article 6 of the Constitution was amended to include “the right to access information and communications technologies”.³⁸

³⁶ Javier Valdez was murdered in Sinaloa in May 2017; Salvador Adame was kidnapped in Michoacán on the 18th of the same month, and found murdered almost a month later. See ‘Mexico: Fifth journalist killed this year in sickening assault on freedom of expression’, Amnesty International, 15 May 2017, <http://goo.gl/dMD2yo>; ‘Mexican journalist abducted in Michoacán state, CPJ, 22 May 2017, <http://goo.gl/YcxNiq>. See also ‘Fiscalía de Oaxaca debe investigar tortura y detención arbitraria de reporteros’, Article 19, 18 August 2016, <http://http://goo.gl/2cN9V4>; ‘FEADLE debe investigar posible implicación de autoridades en el asesinato del fotoperiodista Edgar Esqueda’, Article 19, 6 October 2017, <http://goo.gl/pD3JXx>.

³⁷ See ‘En siete años, solo tres condenas por 989 delitos cometidos contra periodistas’, La Jornada, 2 September 2017, <http://goo.gl/bDucf>; ‘Mexico Hits 90% Impunity Rate for Crimes Against Journalists’, Telesur, 18 November 2017, <http://goo.gl/jzkSbR>. Instances where state agents are convicted are even scarcer. Hence the importance of the conviction, in July 2017, of the former mayor of Silao, Enrique Benjamín Solís Arzola, who accepted his responsibility and was sentenced to two years in prison as an “instigator” of the aggressions perpetrated in 2014 against journalist Karla Janeth Silva Guerrero by three men who broke into her office and beat her to force her to tone down her criticism. See ‘Karla Silva: ejemplo de justicia plena’, Article 19, 26 July 2017, <http://goo.gl/6hXpze>.

³⁸ Constitution of Mexico, op. cit.

Despite these guarantees, the space for free expression has narrowed in recent years as both outright violence and financial restrictions have promoted self-censorship. In locations where harassment is systematic and impunity is almost absolute, the information that citizens can access has significantly declined.

- 4.3.** The Federal Telecommunications and Broadcasting Law, in force since August 2014, established a regulatory entity and a federal commission to guarantee competition in the sector, currently a duopoly. However, no progress has been observed towards increasing media pluralism. The situation is negatively affected by financial restrictions: dependence on government subsidies and official advertising makes most of the media vulnerable to content manipulation. In some states, such as Puebla, the local press has denounced the deliberate and systematic use of official advertising to domesticate the independent press.³⁹ In response to an amparo remedy promoted by Article 19, in November 2017 the National Supreme Court of Justice (SCJN) ordered the Federal Congress to issue before May 2018 a law to regulate official advertising. This is still pending.⁴⁰
- 4.4.** Journalists and the media suffer from the excessive and arbitrary application of criminal provisions on honour (crimes of defamation, slander and insult). Although defamation was eliminated from federal criminal law in 2007, these crimes are still present in the criminal codes of eight states.⁴¹ In addition, civil lawsuits against journalists continue to be actively used throughout Mexico. Among numerous examples, it is worth mentioning the case involving a well-known journalist and academic, Sergio Aguayo, who was sued for “moral damages” by a former governor. The journalist had written that the politician's career “smelled of corruption” and “was an example of impunity.”⁴² Additionally, a SCJN ruling of May 2016 eliminated ceilings on compensation for moral damages.⁴³

³⁹ Given this context, some independent media outlets with human rights agendas have sought innovative forms of financing, such as crowdfunding, and managed to survive in the more dynamic digital space. Such is the case, in Puebla, of Lado B. See their website, <http://ladobe.com.mx>.

⁴⁰ ‘La Corte ordena al Congreso emitir ley que regule el gasto en publicidad oficial’, Animal Político, 15 November 2017, <http://goo.gl/6BcaSN>.

⁴¹ The eight states are Campeche, Colima, Hidalgo, Michoacán, Nayarit, Nuevo León, Sonora and Yucatán.

⁴² See ‘La demanda de Humberto Moreira’, Sergio Aguayo, <http://goo.gl/bmtwG1>. The politician also sued for moral damages, in a separate case, against the newspaper Vanguardia and one of its journalists. See, ‘Demanda Humberto Moreira a VANGUARDIA y periodista por nota de su pensión’, Vanguardia, 6 May 2016, <http://goo.gl/JHxNm9>.

⁴³ ‘Corte ampara a Lucía Méndez para que sea indemnizada por conductor de tv’, El Universal, 4 May 2016, <http://goo.gl/d6pfkE>.

- 4.5. Legal claims for moral damages are just one among many weapons being used to subdue the free press; often, the media outlets that suffer legal claims are simultaneously attacked, either by the same or other actors, through other means. For example, the newspaper El Mañana of Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, which currently faces three lawsuits for moral damages initiated by local officials, has also faced frequent threats and attacks against its facilities and journalists.⁴⁴
- 4.6. Articles 145 and 146 of the aforementioned Telecommunications Law (2013) guarantee net neutrality.⁴⁵ In practice, however, commercial agreements prevail that allow different prices to be established depending on the destination of the connections.⁴⁶ Additionally, Article 190 of the law, ruled constitutional by the SCJN in May 2016, obliges telecommunications service operators to collect and keep for up to two years the metadata of their users' communications. This requirement has been denounced as inconsistent with international standards on the right to privacy.⁴⁷ Meanwhile, the number of requests from government agencies to social media companies to provide information about their users has continued to increase.⁴⁸
- 4.7. In a context in which both activism and journalism are increasingly taking place online, the internet has become a site and source of defamation campaigns, threats, attacks, rumours, false news stories, digital espionage and cyberattacks, often in retaliation or

⁴⁴ 'Funcionarios atentan contra la libertad de expresión al demandar a El Mañana de Nuevo Laredo', Article 19, 14 November 2017, <http://goo.gl/UyXy5q>. The connection is straightforward in the case of the raid against the offices of the Sinaloa journalist and lawyer María Teresa Guerra Ochoa, in the course of which documents were taken from the case file against a local representative who had sued her for moral damages a few months earlier. See 'Roban oficina de periodista demandada por daño moral en Sinaloa', Article 19, 25 August 2016, <http://goo.gl/ws1Td1>.

⁴⁵ Ley Federal de Telecomunicaciones y Radiodifusión, <http://goo.gl/iBV6q8>.

⁴⁶ 'Neutralidad de la Red en México: Del Dicho Al Hecho', R3D, August 2015, <http://goo.gl/YxTxvR>.

⁴⁷ See 'Vigilancia de comunicaciones en México, fuera de control', El Economista, 28 November 2016, <http://goo.gl/f9hwwS>. The Supreme Court ruling also established that a court order is required to access historical metadata and specified which state agencies can access user data - specifically, the Federal Prosecutor, the Federal Police and the authority in charge of enforcing the National Security Law. See 'Inviolabilidad del contenido de las comunicaciones y de los datos que permitan identificarlas: segunda sala', SCJN, 4 May 2016, <http://goo.gl/epBi2X>.

⁴⁸ See 'Transparency Report: Mexico-Government requests', Facebook, January-June 2017, <http://goo.gl/aQWAon>; 'Transparency Report: Information Requests', Twitter, January-June 2017, <http://goo.gl/FHd8uL>.

warning for covering sensitive issues.⁴⁹ For example, in October 2017 the Facebook account of journalist Félix Bigman, from Yucatán, was hijacked. Attackers changed the content in the site, which the journalist was using to publish information about, and voice criticism of, the municipal government of Kanasín.⁵⁰

- 4.8. Mexico has had access to information legislation since 2002; however, effective access to information remains problematic. Monitoring reports produced by civil society have highlighted the “severe limitations, bureaucratic inertia and strong resistance” that make it difficult to obtain information “meeting minimum criteria of quality, timeliness, reliability and accessibility.”⁵¹

5. Freedom of peaceful assembly

1. During Mexico’s examination under the 2nd UPR cycle, the government received and accepted a single, highly unspecific, recommendation on the right to the freedom of assembly. The government thereby committed to “strengthen the criminal justice system in the country, to promptly and effectively investigate all alleged cases of [...] disproportionate use of force” (148.95). This recommendation was not implemented and, as evidenced below, restrictions on the freedom of peaceful assembly, both in law and in practice, have continued to increase.
2. Both article 21 of the ICCPR and article 9 of the Constitution of Mexico guarantee the freedom of peaceful assembly.⁵² Nonetheless, this right has been undermined in Mexico through the enactment of laws that inhibit protest, the use of ambiguous criminal

⁴⁹ Among key forms of cyberattacks are: denial of service (DoS) attacks, in which the attacker sends an excessive number of messages asking the network or server to authenticate access requests, so as to overflow servers and incapacitate a website; ‘brute force’ attacks aimed at obtaining passwords to control a site and modify or delete content; the installation of malicious and surveillance software on cellphones and other devices; and the hijacking of social media accounts. See ‘Aumentan los ataques digitales contra medios de comunicación en México: Google’, Animal Político, 14 October 2016, <http://goo.gl/BR8yw1>; ‘Reporta Artículo 19 ataques cibernéticos a Más de 131 y Radio Zapote’, Págin@bierta, <http://goo.gl/wHfWV5>.

⁵⁰ Félix Bigman’s account had already been hijacked in January 2017, when it was used to publish information favourable to the municipal government. See ‘Intervienen cuenta de Facebook de periodista crítico en Yucatán’, Article 19, 2 November 2017, <http://goo.gl/ybEjwT>. At the time of writing, he continues to be unable to access his account.

⁵¹ ‘Acceso a la información y transparencia en México’, FUNDAR, <http://goo.gl/BDqaVe>. In order to harmonise legislation with a constitutional provision on transparency added in 2014, in May 2016 Congress passed a new Federal Law on Transparency and Access to Public Information, replacing the previous one. See Ley Federal de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información Pública Gubernamental, 2002, <http://goo.gl/zq93fy>; Ley Federal de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información Pública, 2016, <http://goo.gl/G9qTNB>.

⁵² Constitution of Mexico, op. cit. It should be noted that, in regard to political issues, this right is explicitly reserved for Mexican citizens, as stated in articles 9 and 33 of the Constitution.

offences that criminalise protests, and the use of disproportionate, excessive and occasionally lethal force by the security forces to disperse demonstrations.

3. Mexico does not have a single federal law on assemblies. Each state and Mexico City apply their own laws, regulations and administrative procedures, which often include restrictive requirements and enable the so-called “legitimate use of force” under lax or vaguely defined conditions. Currently 14 states⁵³ plus Mexico City have laws that inhibit and criminalise social protest. The charges that are most frequently used to criminalise demonstrators are those of riot, sedition, civil disobedience and resistance, disrespect of authority, sabotage, obstruction of works, obstruction of public roads, attacks or interference with public peace, terrorism, coercion of the authorities, and the illegal exercise of a right.⁵⁴
4. Additionally, Article 8 of the recently enacted Interior Security Law (2017)⁵⁵ enables federal forces, including the armed forces, to intervene in protests and political and electoral mobilisations when these are deemed as not “peaceful,” in accordance with the Federal Constitution, and confers on the security forces a wide margin of discretion to take part in the investigation of crimes and perform intelligence tasks without adequate or sufficient controls (Articles 27, 30 and 31). The right to assemble is also being restricted through the use of geolocation and data retention technologies and the suspension of phone services, as well as through the criminalisation of protest in institutional, media and social discourse.⁵⁶

⁵³ The states are Aguascalientes, Baja California Sur, Campeche, Chihuahua, México state, Michoacán, Morelos, Oaxaca, Puebla, Quintana Roo, San Luis Potosí, Tabasco, Veracruz and Zacatecas. Between June and December 2017 alone, three new laws of this type were passed in Baja California Sur, Chihuahua and Morelos, and a similar law was proposed in Coahuila.

⁵⁴ The Mobility Law of the Federal District (2014) is quite representative of the restrictions on the freedom of protest currently in force in numerous states. Article 212 of this law discourages spontaneous meetings and establishes highly vague and subjective criteria, including that they should have a “perfectly lawful purpose” and not affect “the peace and tranquility of the city's population.” Articles 213 and 214 impose place restrictions, excluding “primary roads with continuous circulation,” and allow recourse to “necessary measures” when these are blocked. In the face of citizen discontent and judicial challenges, the Supreme Court ruled that these articles were constitutional, but that they should be interpreted in such a way as to not restrict rights (for instance, in the sense that the notification requirement does not amount to a need to obtain authorisation). See ‘Suprema Corte pone en riesgo el derecho a la protesta social’, Article 19, 11 August 2016, <http://goo.gl/rv5ayY>.

⁵⁵ ‘México: Promulgada la Ley de Seguridad Interior’, DW, 21 December 2017, <http://goo.gl/DdZdr6>.

⁵⁶ ‘Control del Espacio Público 3.0. Informe sobre Retrocesos en las Libertades de Expresión y Reunión en el Actual Gobierno’, FLEPS, 2015, <http://goo.gl/pwEM65>.

5. In practice, state and federal security forces - sometimes including the army⁵⁷ - have repeatedly made disproportionate use of force in contexts of social protest, leaving numerous people injured and detained, and some dead.⁵⁸ Force is routinely used to disperse demonstrations, often including housebreaking and assaults on bystanders.⁵⁹ The use of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of detained persons has also been documented.⁶⁰ According to data compiled by FLEPS, between December 2012 and May 2015 more than 200 people were injured and hundreds more suffered violence during social protests.⁶¹ The misuse of non-lethal weapons, such as teargas and rubber bullets, to cause serious and occasionally fatal injuries, was also observed.⁶²
6. Following a 2015 visit to the country, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights expressed concern about the routine political use of arbitrary detention as “a tool to silence dissenting voices, social movements and student movements, among others.”⁶³ Arbitrary detentions often lead to unfair trials based on charges for vague and ambiguously defined crimes, such as those listed in section 5.3 above.⁶⁴ Judicial proceedings are often preceded or accompanied by stigmatising statements by public officials that flagrantly violate the principle of presumed innocence.⁶⁵
7. In mid-2016 a national teachers’ strike organised by the CNTE’s Section 22 was forcefully suppressed. The teachers had blocked one of the main roads connecting

⁵⁷ This was documented by the CNDH in the case of Ostula, Michoacán, on 19 July 2015 (Recommendation 65/2016).

⁵⁸ This was seen, for instance, during the 1Dmx demonstrations (Recommendation 7/2013 by the Comisión de Derechos Humanos del Distrito Federal (CDHDF)), and in the protests that took place in Chalchihuapan on 9 July 2014 (Recommendation 2VG/2014 by the CNDH), Nochixtlán on 19 June 2016 (Recommendation 7VG/2017 by the CNDH), and 20 April 2006 in Lázaro Cárdenas, Michoacán (Recommendation 37/2006 by the CNDH) .

⁵⁹ ‘Informe anual de la Relatoría especial para la libertad de expresión’, IACHR, 2014, par. 762, <http://tinyurl.com/ofasuyt>.

⁶⁰ Some examples of this were observed during the 1Dmx demonstrations (Recommendation 7/2013 by the CDHDF), the demonstration on 2 October 2013 (Recommendations 9, 10 and 11 of 2015 by the CDHDF), and the repression that took place in Guadalajara, Jalisco, on 28 May 2004 (CNDH Special Report).

⁶¹ FLEPS, 2015, op. cit., pp.12-17 and 45-51; ‘Control del espacio público: informe sobre retrocesos en las libertades de expresión y reunión en el actual gobierno’, FLEPS, 2014, p.16, <http://bit.ly/1reGtZb>.

⁶² IACHR, 2014, op. cit., par. 756, 777.

⁶³ ‘Observaciones Preliminares de la Visita in Loco de la CIDH a México’, IACHR, 2 October 2015, <http://bit.ly/2xqmZKi>.

⁶⁴ FLEPS, 2015, op. cit.; Thematic hearing on social protest in Mexico, IACHR, October 2014.

⁶⁵ ‘Criminalización de defensoras y defensores de derechos humanos’, IACHR, OEA/Ser.L/V/II. Doc. 49/15, par. 6, 31 December 2015.

Mexico City with Oaxaca. In a context of high militarisation, on 19 June 2016 Federal Police anti-riot forces opened fire on demonstrators. The eviction operation led to at least 10 deaths and left more than 100 people injured. At first the government denied that the Federal Police carried weapons, but photographic evidence and the statements of numerous witnesses contradicted it.⁶⁶

8. More recently, in January and February 2017, thousands of people protested across Mexico against rising fuel prices. During the protests there were episodes of violence and repression, which resulted in six deaths and 1,500 arrests. Arbitrary and, in many cases, violent arrests were reported, including on charges of sedition.⁶⁷ Hundreds of gas stations closed for fear of looting; human rights organisations denounced the infiltration of protests by groups willing to justify state repression.⁶⁸
9. Indigenous communities mobilising against extractive and infrastructure megaprojects, often developed in the absence of significant processes of prior consultation, are among the most frequent targets of criminalisation, violence and violation of protest rights. Women are also being specifically attacked, given that violations of assembly rights include various forms of sexual violence.⁶⁹ Journalists and demonstrators documenting protests - particularly when recording police abuses - are also particularly vulnerable, as security forces seek to hinder their coverage, including through physical attacks.⁷⁰ These aggressions also tend to remain unpunished.

6. Recommendations to the Government of Mexico

CIVICUS and FLEPS call on the Government of Mexico to create and maintain, in law and in practice, an enabling environment for civil society, in accordance with the rights

⁶⁶ 'Al menos 13 muertos y 25 desaparecidos en Oaxaca', Telesur, 20 June 2016, <http://goo.gl/1G5uiu>.

⁶⁷ One example of this was the case of Raymundo Pascual, accused of sedition without any evidence, after participating in peaceful citizen actions during the fuel protests. Legal proceedings against him dragged on for nine months. After filing several legal remedies, his release was eventually obtained, along with the recognition that it is important to take context into account when political crimes such as sedition are involved, since social protest implies above all the exercise of a right. See 'En Querétaro, la represión por el gasolinazo no cesa', Animal Político, 1 August 2017, <https://goo.gl/8PPoC2>; 'Raymundo y el castigo a la libertad de manifestación', Animal Político, 16 October 2017, <http://goo.gl/Cr4BJ>.

⁶⁸ 'Alertan sobre infiltraciones en protestas contra el gasolinazo para justificar represión', Proceso, 9 January 2017, <http://goo.gl/r7SLpN>.

⁶⁹ There have been reports of threats or verbal attacks of a sexual connotation against protesters as well as touching, forced nudity and sexual torture of female detainees. See 'Mujeres sobrevivientes de tortura sexual en Atenco, un caso paradigmático de impunidad ante la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos', Centro Prodh, 2017, <http://goo.gl/YhmimU>.

⁷⁰ 'Cambios cosméticos: Informe sobre actuaciones policiales durante la protesta del 2 de octubre', Article 19, 2015, <http://goo.gl/OLEQsJ>; '#RompeElMiedo', Article 19, <http://goo.gl/uZnsRM>.

enshrined in the ICCPR, the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and Human Rights Council resolutions 22/6, 27/5 and 27/31.

At a minimum, the following conditions should be guaranteed: the freedoms of association, peaceful assembly and expression; the rights to operate free from unwarranted state interference, communicate and cooperate, and seek and secure funding; and the state's duty to protect. In light of this, the following recommendations are made:

1. Regarding the freedom of association

- Foster an enabling environment for civil society by removing excessive or politically motivated bureaucratic requirements on CSOs; abstaining from any acts of illegal espionage, establishing controls on espionage and investigating all reported cases; and refraining from criminalising CSOs and their members or introducing obstacles leading to the closure or suspension of their legitimate activities.
- Enable the participation of civil society in decision-making processes involving human rights, their participation in investigations of violations, and their technical assistance and monitoring of the implementation of recommendations, such as those of the GIEI for the Ayotzinapa case.
- Amend the Federal Law to Prevent and Identify Operations with Illicit Proceedings (2012) to remove the identification of donations to CSOs as potentially vulnerable activities and the obligations for CSO to register prior to requesting donations and to report donations on a monthly basis.
- Ensure that the private sector does not place additional unjustified obstacles on CSOs accessing financial services.
- Guarantee the full freedom of association, including the holding of free elections in trade unions, the functioning of independent unions and the exercise of the right to strike without any criminalisation or repression.

2. Regarding the protection of human rights defenders and journalists

- Provide a safe environment for civil society activists, journalists and HRDs to carry out their work without suffering legal or administrative harassment, fear of repression and the need to resort to self-censorship.
- Strengthen the Protection Mechanism, especially in the states of Chihuahua, Guerrero, Oaxaca and Veracruz, including by providing it with sufficient budget and

trained personnel; balancing protection and prevention; basing interventions on a gender perspective and a comprehensive and cross-cutting collective approach; and establishing protection protocols specific to electoral contexts and social protests.

- Eliminate or clarify, as the case may be, all vague or ambiguous criminal types currently used to criminalise rights advocacy and protest.
- Recognise a broad definition of journalism, without any exclusions based on criteria such as remuneration, length of employment or involvement in conventional media, among others.
- Publicly condemn any rights violation, harassment or intimidation against activists, HRDs and journalists; and conduct impartial, exhaustive and effective investigations, based on gender and ethnic perspectives, of all cases of attacks, harassment and intimidation, bringing those responsible to justice.

3. Regarding the freedom of expression, independence of the media and access to information

- Harmonise national legislation with international standards to ensure that journalists and writers can express critical opinions or cover issues that the government or other actors might consider sensitive, without fear of reprisals.
- Repeal criminal offences that criminalise expression, and specifically the offences of: crimes against honour, in force in eight states; ‘halconeo’ (lookout), related to searching for and providing information about security forces operations, included in 22 laws; “outrages against authority,” included in 24 laws; and the six existing “anti-meme” laws.
- Reform civil claims procedures for moral damages at both the federal and state levels, in order to establish the judicial obligation to conduct prima facie analyses of claims arising from alleged abuses of the freedom of expression.
- Reform the Law for the Protection of Data in the Possession of Individuals and the General Law on the Protection of Personal Data in the Possession of Obligated Subjects to include, as exceptions to the exercise of access, rectification, cancellation and opposition rights for the protection of personal data, the public interest and the right to freedom of expression and information.
- Regulate article 134.8 of the Constitution by means of a General Law on Official Advertising that eliminates the discretionary and arbitrary use of advertising as a means of control of media outlets’ editorial lines. The law should include: criteria for resource allocation and media inclusion; mechanisms for measuring audience, circulation, visits and rating; definition of contents of public utility; guarantees of

transparency and accountability; and mechanisms for submitting complaints, making denunciations and imposing sanctions.

- Legislate the internet to promote digital inclusion with a multicultural and human rights perspective and ensure free access through the relaxation of property rules and the promotion of a more active role for bloggers, journalists and other users.
- Ensure effective access to information through the implementation of mechanisms that facilitate public access in line with the best available practices.
- Organise consultations with CSOs, journalists and the media to resolve existing disputes surrounding media laws already in force, and refrain from adopting new laws that establish mechanisms that allow for censorship or improper controls on content.

4. Regarding the freedom of assembly

- Include guarantees for the exercise of the freedom of assembly, understood as a human right and a mechanism of enforceability of other rights, in the National Development Plan and all sectoral plans. The right to protest must also be protected within the framework of social communication protocols designed to avoid stigmatising narratives.
- Amend ambiguous laws and repeal types of crimes that are used to accuse and prosecute protesters, such as “disrespect of authority,” “attacks against public peace,” “resistance by private individuals,” “sedition” and “sabotage.”
- Repeal the articles of the Internal Security Law (2017) that enable the intervention and the use of force by federal forces and the armed forces in protests and political and electoral mobilisations characterised as non-peaceful.
- Follow up on the recommendations on protest issued by the United Nations’ Special Rapporteurs for the freedom of expression (preliminary report, December 2017) and on human rights defenders (March 2018).
- Develop, with civil society participation, a national protocol on the use of public force based on the principles of legality, extreme necessity, proportionality and precaution, in accordance with international standards, as well as a model protocol for political conciliation in contexts of social protest. In both cases, a gender perspective and protection guarantees for vulnerable groups must be incorporated.
- Regarding police and security forces: a) Implement appropriate mechanisms to select personnel and regularly assess their capacities; b) Include agents specialised in conflict management and easing tension; c) Review, and update in collaboration with independent CSOs, human rights training to promote the consistent application of

international standards such as the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms; d) Provide them with adequate equipment to meet their obligations, maintain a record of the equipment and weapons delivered and ensure the transparency of police records; e) create external controls that guarantee the investigation of all human rights violations committed by police and security agents.

- Conduct impartial, thorough, diligent and efficient investigations to clarify all cases of injury or death resulting from the use of public force in protests; hold the commanding officer or public official in charge accountable; and provide effective remedies for judicial review and comprehensive reparation.
- To state legislatures: a) Repeal the legal and administrative provisions that establish requirements including prior authorisation, demonstration of legality, the legal liability of organisers, time or place restrictions, and discretion regarding the use of force in the event of non-compliance with requirements, as well as any other regulation that limits the freedom of protest; b) Legislate from a human rights perspective, giving precedence to the protection of people in the context of protests.

5. Regarding access to UN Special Procedures mandate holders

- In view of the visits completed in 2017 by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Government of Mexico should now prioritise official visits with the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

6.6 Regarding state engagement with civil society

- Implement transparent and inclusive mechanisms of public consultations with civil society on all issues mentioned above and enable civil society's more effective involvement in the preparation of law and policies.
- Include CSOs in the UPR process before finalising and submitting the national report, and consult with them periodically regarding its implementation.
- Incorporate the results of this UPR into public policies aimed at promoting and protecting all human rights, taking into account the proposals of civil society; and present a midterm evaluation report to the Human Rights Council on the implementation of the recommendations of this session.

Annex - UPR of Mexico (2nd Cycle – 17th session) - List of recommendations pertaining civic space

Recommendation	Position	Assessment/comments on level of implementation
<p>148.22. Introduce legal provisions effectively guaranteeing the safety of human rights defenders (Poland)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.4, 2.5, 3.5, 3.9, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6</p>
<p>148.52. Pursue efforts to ensure that complaints in cases of torture, arbitrary detention and disappearances are duly investigated (Turkey)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.5, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9, 5.5, 5.6</p>
<p>148.95. Strengthen the criminal justice system in the country, to promptly and effectively investigate all alleged cases of enforced disappearances, disproportionate use of force, attacks, threats, harassments against human rights defenders, and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice and victims receive reparations (Azerbaijan)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6</p>
<p>148.104. Continue the fight against impunity, especially regarding violence against women, children, human rights defenders, journalists and all other vulnerable groups (Estonia)/Fight against impunity through conducting exhaustive investigations of all allegations of human rights violations (France)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.4, 2.5, 3.5, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9</p>
<p>148.116. Establish effective protections for civil society and journalists, including the prompt and efficient investigation and prosecution of all threats and attacks made against these individuals (Canada)/ Guarantee a safe, free and independent environment for journalists and ensure that all cases of threats, violence, attacks and killings against journalists are investigated by independent and impartial bodies (Austria)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9</p>
<p>148.117. Strengthen the federal mechanism for the protection of defenders and journalists and provide it with preventive capacity, taking into account the threat posed by organized crime networks against freedom of speech and press (Colombia)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.3, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.8, 3.9, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9</p>

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<p>148.95. Strengthen the criminal justice system in the country, to promptly and effectively investigate all alleged cases of enforced disappearances, disproportionate use of force, attacks, threats, harassments against human rights defenders, and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice and victims receive reparations (Azerbaijan)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6</p>
<p>148.104. Continue the fight against impunity, especially regarding violence against women, children, human rights defenders, journalists and all other vulnerable groups (Estonia)/Fight against impunity through conducting exhaustive investigations of all allegations of human rights violations (France)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.4, 2.5, 3.5, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9</p>
<p>148.118. Strengthen both the Mechanism for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists as well as the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Crimes Against Freedom of Expression (Netherlands)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 5.9</p>
<p>148.119. Strengthen and expand the Mechanism to Protect Human Rights Defenders and Journalists including by providing it with adequate resources and powers to carry out its work and creating a mechanism for consultation with indigenous and other communities affected by land transactions (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.9, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 5.9</p>
<p>148.120. Continue to improve implementation of the Human Rights Defenders and Journalists Protection Act and the national protection mechanism at the federal and state level (United States of America)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.5, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.8, 3.9, 4.2, 4.5, 4.7, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5</p>

Recommendation	Position	Assessment/comments on level of implementation
<p>148.22. Introduce legal provisions effectively guaranteeing the safety of human rights defenders (Poland)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.4, 2.5, 3.5, 3.9, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6</p>
<p>148.52. Pursue efforts to ensure that complaints in cases of torture, arbitrary detention and disappearances are duly investigated (Turkey)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.5, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9, 5.5, 5.6</p>
<p>148.95. Strengthen the criminal justice system in the country, to promptly and effectively investigate all alleged cases of enforced disappearances, disproportionate use of force, attacks, threats, harassments against human rights defenders, and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice and victims receive reparations (Azerbaijan)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6</p>
<p>148.104. Continue the fight against impunity, especially regarding violence against women, children, human rights defenders, journalists and all other vulnerable groups (Estonia)/Fight against impunity through conducting exhaustive investigations of all allegations of human rights violations (France)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.4, 2.5, 3.5, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9</p>
<p>148.121. Ensure that adequate attention is dedicated to the effective protection of journalists and human rights defenders (Australia)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.4, 2.5, 3.5, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7</p>
<p>148.122. Ensure an effective implementation of the protection mechanism for journalists and human rights defenders with properly managed funds and trained human resources and that Mexico investigates and prosecutes reported threats, attacks and disappearances (Norway)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.3, 2.4, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9</p>

Recommendation	Position	Assessment/comments on level of implementation
<p>148.22. Introduce legal provisions effectively guaranteeing the safety of human rights defenders (Poland)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.4, 2.5, 3.5, 3.9, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6</p>
<p>148.52. Pursue efforts to ensure that complaints in cases of torture, arbitrary detention and disappearances are duly investigated (Turkey)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.5, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9, 5.5, 5.6</p>
<p>148.95. Strengthen the criminal justice system in the country, to promptly and effectively investigate all alleged cases of enforced disappearances, disproportionate use of force, attacks, threats, harassments against human rights defenders, and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice and victims receive reparations (Azerbaijan)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6</p>
<p>148.104. Continue the fight against impunity, especially regarding violence against women, children, human rights defenders, journalists and all other vulnerable groups (Estonia)/Fight against impunity through conducting exhaustive investigations of all allegations of human rights violations (France)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.4, 2.5, 3.5, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9</p>
<p>148.123. Continue to ensure the budgetary allocations granted to the mechanism for the protection of human rights defenders, and recruit immediately the entire set of specialized staff to guarantee effective work by the mechanism and contribute thus effectively to the protection and security of all human rights defenders (Switzerland)/Provide all necessary support to the Human Rights Defenders and Journalists Protection Mechanism and ensure full cooperation and its implementation at state and municipal levels (Czech Republic)/ Ensure that human rights defenders and journalists are protected and not subject to defamation. The “protection mechanism for human rights defenders and journalists” should be funded appropriately and a clear division of jurisdictional responsibilities between the different levels of government should be achieved (Germany)/Ensure full financial and political support for the Human Rights Defenders and Journalists Protection Mechanism, including by allocating to it necessary resources as well as trained and qualified staff (Hungary)/ Provide real financial and human support for the recent protection mechanisms set up for journalists (Belgium)</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.4, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.8, 3.9, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7</p>

Recommendation	Position	Assessment/comments on level of implementation
<p>148.22. Introduce legal provisions effectively guaranteeing the safety of human rights defenders (Poland)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.4, 2.5, 3.5, 3.9, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6</p>
<p>148.52. Pursue efforts to ensure that complaints in cases of torture, arbitrary detention and disappearances are duly investigated (Turkey)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.5, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9, 5.5, 5.6</p>
<p>148.95. Strengthen the criminal justice system in the country, to promptly and effectively investigate all alleged cases of enforced disappearances, disproportionate use of force, attacks, threats, harassments against human rights defenders, and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice and victims receive reparations (Azerbaijan)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6</p>
<p>148.104. Continue the fight against impunity, especially regarding violence against women, children, human rights defenders, journalists and all other vulnerable groups (Estonia)/Fight against impunity through conducting exhaustive investigations of all allegations of human rights violations (France)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.4, 2.5, 3.5, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9</p>
<p>148.124. Implement the recommendations by the United Nations Treaty Bodies regarding the protection of human rights defenders and journalists (Finland)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.5, 3.5, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6</p>
<p>148.125. Take appropriate measures to combat violence and harassment against human rights defenders and journalists (France)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.3, 2.4, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.8, 3.9, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9</p>
<p>148.126. Take effective measures to prevent any violence against journalists or human rights defenders (Republic of Korea)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.3, 2.4, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.8, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7</p>
<p>148.127. Pursue their efforts to reinforce legislative and institutional guarantees for human rights defenders and journalists exercising their right to freedom of expression and strengthen the fight against impunity in this regard (Slovakia)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.10, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 4.8</p>

Recommendation	Position	Assessment/comments on level of implementation
<p>148.22. Introduce legal provisions effectively guaranteeing the safety of human rights defenders (Poland)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.4, 2.5, 3.5, 3.9, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6</p>
<p>148.52. Pursue efforts to ensure that complaints in cases of torture, arbitrary detention and disappearances are duly investigated (Turkey)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.5, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9, 5.5, 5.6</p>
<p>148.95. Strengthen the criminal justice system in the country, to promptly and effectively investigate all alleged cases of enforced disappearances, disproportionate use of force, attacks, threats, harassments against human rights defenders, and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice and victims receive reparations (Azerbaijan)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6</p>
<p>148.104. Continue the fight against impunity, especially regarding violence against women, children, human rights defenders, journalists and all other vulnerable groups (Estonia)/Fight against impunity through conducting exhaustive investigations of all allegations of human rights violations (France)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.4, 2.5, 3.5, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9</p>
<p>148.128. Seek the guidance of special procedures in further enhancing the safety of all human rights defenders in the country by inviting the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders to visit the country (Hungary)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Implemented</p> <p>Source: 6.5</p>
<p>148.129. Strengthen the Special Prosecutor for Attention to Crimes against Freedom of Expression (FEADLE), and ensure reparation for the victims, as well as provide the mechanism for the protection of human rights defenders with the necessary support to fulfil its mandate (Sweden)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.4, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7</p>
<p>148.130. Step up its efforts to guarantee security of human rights defenders and journalists, and to put an end to all impunity in this area (Tunisia)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.4, 2.5, 3.5, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7</p>
<p>148.131. Ensure the effective implementation of the Protection Mechanism, under the Human Rights Defenders and Journalists Protection Act, to reduce impunity, especially the crimes against defenders of the human rights of migrants (Spain)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.8, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7</p>

Recommendation	Position	Assessment/comments on level of implementation
<p>148.22. Introduce legal provisions effectively guaranteeing the safety of human rights defenders (Poland)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.4, 2.5, 3.5, 3.9, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6</p>
<p>148.52. Pursue efforts to ensure that complaints in cases of torture, arbitrary detention and disappearances are duly investigated (Turkey)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.5, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9, 5.5, 5.6</p>
<p>148.95. Strengthen the criminal justice system in the country, to promptly and effectively investigate all alleged cases of enforced disappearances, disproportionate use of force, attacks, threats, harassments against human rights defenders, and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice and victims receive reparations (Azerbaijan)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6</p>
<p>148.104. Continue the fight against impunity, especially regarding violence against women, children, human rights defenders, journalists and all other vulnerable groups (Estonia)/Fight against impunity through conducting exhaustive investigations of all allegations of human rights violations (France)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.4, 2.5, 3.5, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9</p>
<p>148.132. Improve the implementation of the existing framework in order to ensure the protection of human rights defenders and journalists (Romania)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.4, 2.5, 3.5, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7</p>
<p>148.133. Put an end to threats, attacks and deaths of journalists by allowing for comprehensive and impartial investigations (Belgium)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.4, 3.8, 3.10, 4.2, 4.5, 4.7</p>
<p>148.134. Strengthen measures to effectively prevent the violence against journalists and human rights defenders and impunity (Japan)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.4, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7</p>
<p>148.135. Fully and effectively implement the recently adopted laws in order to end threats, attacks and killings of human rights defenders and journalists and ensure prompt and effective investigation to bring those responsible to justice (Lithuania)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.4, 2.5, 3.5, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10</p>

Recommendation	Position	Assessment/comments on level of implementation
<p>148.22. Introduce legal provisions effectively guaranteeing the safety of human rights defenders (Poland)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.4, 2.5, 3.5, 3.9, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6</p>
<p>148.52. Pursue efforts to ensure that complaints in cases of torture, arbitrary detention and disappearances are duly investigated (Turkey)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.5, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9, 5.5, 5.6</p>
<p>148.95. Strengthen the criminal justice system in the country, to promptly and effectively investigate all alleged cases of enforced disappearances, disproportionate use of force, attacks, threats, harassments against human rights defenders, and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice and victims receive reparations (Azerbaijan)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6</p>
<p>148.104. Continue the fight against impunity, especially regarding violence against women, children, human rights defenders, journalists and all other vulnerable groups (Estonia)/Fight against impunity through conducting exhaustive investigations of all allegations of human rights violations (France)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 2.4, 2.5, 3.5, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9</p>
<p>148.136. Integrate gender perspective when addressing impunity and lack of safety of journalists and human rights defenders (Slovenia)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 3.5, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 5.9</p>
<p>148.137. Develop an investigation protocol with gender and ethnicity perspectives that can be used by the offices of Attorneys General of States in all cases where women human rights defenders report threats or attacks (Ireland)</p> <p>Source of position: A/HRC/27/7 - Para. 148</p>	Accepted	<p>Status: Not implemented</p> <p>Source: 3.10, 5.9</p>