



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: registry@ohchr.org

24 August 2022

Excellency,

I have been following the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Republic of Uganda and welcome the constructive engagement of the Government of Uganda during the 40th session of the UPR Working Group in January/February 2022.

As the final outcome report on the review of Uganda was recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 50th session, I would like to take this opportunity to follow up on a number of areas raised in the two reports that my Office had prepared for the review of Uganda – the Compilation of United Nations information and the Summary of Stakeholders' submissions – which I consider in need of particular attention over the next four and a half years, until the next cycle of the UPR. In identifying those areas, I have considered the statements and recommendations made by 97 delegations and the presentation made and responses provided by the delegation of Uganda. I have also considered the actions taken by the Government of Uganda to implement the 148 recommendations fully supported as well as those that were partially supported during the second cycle of the UPR. The aforementioned areas cover a range of issues, which appear in the annex to this letter.

I note with satisfaction that some recommendations in connection with the rights of women have been implemented and encourage Uganda to continue promoting gender equality and increasing access of women to sexual and reproductive health.

I welcome the enactment of the Prevention and Prohibition of Human Sacrifice Act of 2021 and the National Action Plan for Persons with Albinism aimed at protecting persons with albinism, and of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. I encourage Uganda to take specific measures to fully implement the adopted legislation and policies.

I encourage Uganda to make further efforts to ensure the respect and protection of the rights to equality and non-discrimination on any grounds. I take note of Uganda's commitment to carry out investigations on human rights violations and encourage continuous efforts in this regard, including in relation to allegations of excessive use of force by security forces. I also encourage Uganda to increase efforts to ensure freedom of expression and assembly.

/..

H.E. Mr. Jeje Abubakhar ODONGO
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Uganda

I further encourage Uganda to adopt a comprehensive national human rights action plan in order to achieve concrete results in the areas highlighted in the annex to this letter and to facilitate preparations for the fourth cycle of the UPR. My advice to all Member States is to develop and implement national action plans in close consultation and cooperation with all stakeholders, in particular the national human rights institution and all civil society organizations and, where necessary, with the support of international organizations, including my Office and other United Nations entities, under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator.

I also encourage Uganda to continue its efforts to strengthen the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights for comprehensive reporting and follow-up to recommendations received from all international and regional human rights mechanisms and to treaty obligations, linking them to the Sustainable Development Goals. To this end, I strongly recommend the use of the OHCHR practical guide on this topic, which is available at:

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR_PUB_16_1_NMRF_PracticalGuide.pdf

Please note that I am sharing my advice with all Member States as they go through the third cycle of the UPR with a view to assisting States with the implementation of the recommendations, following the review. One important measure that can positively contribute to follow-up action is voluntary mid-term reporting. Therefore, I strongly encourage all Member States to submit a voluntary mid-term report two years after the adoption of the UPR outcome report. In this regard, I encourage the Government of Uganda to consider submitting a mid-term report on follow-up to the third cycle of the review by 2024.

As stated by the Secretary-General in his 2017 report on the work of the Organization (A/72/1, paragraph 98): *“The Human Rights Council’s universal periodic review process is now entering a new cycle, with every Member State scheduled for a third round of scrutiny. We will work to strengthen the relevance, precision, and impact of the Council’s recommendations, including by providing better support to Member States in implementation, stronger collaboration with United Nations country teams and the establishment of national mechanisms for human rights reporting and follow-up to link the universal periodic review to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.”*

My Office looks forward to discussing with you ways in which it may assist Uganda in relation to the areas identified in this letter and its annex.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Michelle Bachelet
High Commissioner for Human Rights

cc.: Ms. Susan Ngongi NAMONDO
United Nations Resident Coordinator
Republic of Uganda

Mr. Robert KOTCHANI
Country Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OHCHR Country Office for Uganda
Republic of Uganda

Annex

Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies.

- Continuing to ratify the international human rights treaties to which Uganda is not a party yet.

National human rights framework

- Strengthening the National Human Rights Commission, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), and providing it with adequate financial resources to allow it to adequately and independently carry out its mandate.
- Continuing efforts to align Uganda's domestic legislation with international law, and adopting and implementing the national action plan on human rights.

Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Cross-cutting issues

Equality and non-discrimination

- Enhancing measures to prevent discrimination against all vulnerable groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities, and persons living with HIV/AIDS.

B. Civil and political rights

Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

- Continuing efforts to strengthen the rule of law and the justice system, including juvenile justice, ensuring the independence of the judicial system, and increasing access of the population to justice.
- Intensifying efforts to reduce overcrowding in places of deprivation of liberty and ensuring that conditions in places of detention are fully in line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules).

Fundamental freedoms

- Considering to reinforce measures, including oversight mechanisms, to guarantee the rights of citizens to freedom of expression and peaceful demonstration.

Prohibition of all forms of slavery

- Continuing efforts to eliminate trafficking in persons, including through the effective implementation of the second national action plan to prevent trafficking in persons 2019–2024.

C. Economic, social and cultural rights

Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

- Pursuing its efforts to place the labour inspection system under a central authority with a view to ensuring coherence in the functioning of the labour inspection system and take the necessary legislative measures to ensure that the minimum wage allows workers an adequate standard of living.

Right to social security

- Continuing to take steps to expand social assistance and direct income support to vulnerable individuals and households, and increasing investment in social protection and budgetary allocations towards national social protection; and removing obstacles for accessing social protection interventions in order to ensure that those most at risk of being left behind are not further excluded from social protection.

Right to an adequate standard of living

- Intensifying efforts to eliminate poverty and redressing the number of people living below the poverty line; and ensuring that key human rights principles of inclusion, participation, equality, non-discrimination and accountability guide the socioeconomic recovery and resilience-building strategies and processes.
- Maintaining efforts in terms of planning and infrastructure in order to increase the coverage of the drinking water supply, particularly to rural and remote regions.

Right to health

- Increasing efforts to provide comprehensive health care, especially for the most vulnerable and marginalized persons and groups, in line with the framework of national strategic plans, including by increasing investment in the health system and related infrastructure.
- Advancing towards universal health coverage and finalizing and implementing the multi-sectoral strategy to reduce maternal mortality by 2030, and ensuring improvement in the equitable distribution and availability of sexual and reproductive health and childcare services, particularly to people living in rural areas.
- Continuing its efforts to improve health-care access for women from poor and rural backgrounds, and reducing maternal mortality rate through high quality, robust and comprehensive measures.

Right to education

- Taking all appropriate measures, including the allocation of an increased budget to the education sector, to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the right to education, and accelerating progress towards the realization of Sustainable Development Goal 4 on inclusive and equitable quality education.
- Considering to put in place a policy of free primary and secondary education of 12 years' duration; increasing efforts to provide free and quality education to all girls; taking further steps to improve retention and completion rates among learners in primary and secondary education, including by addressing barriers to education and factors contributing to school dropout among children; and continuing its efforts to improve the quality of education at all levels.

D. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women

- Taking all necessary measures, both in law and in practice, to combat violence against women, including domestic violence and harmful practices, and ensuring effective access to justice for women, including for victims of sexual and gender-based violence.
- Strengthening national capacities to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, in law and in practice, and ensuring equal rights for women and men in all domains, including marriage, divorce, inheritance and employment.
- Pursuing efforts to increase the representation of women at all levels of the political process, as well as their participation in public life and decision-making positions without discrimination.

Children

- Implementing existing legislation protecting children against exploitation, taking concrete measures to provide them protection from all forms of violence and hazardous labour, and strengthening social safety nets to avoid that children are forced to live and work on the streets.
- Considering to increase the budget allocation and national investment for early childhood development, especially for the first 1,000 days of life; strengthening registration structures at the local government level in order to ensure registration of all children; allocating adequate financial and technical resources to enhance the national child protection system and ensuring the provision of quality child protection services to all children; and operationalizing and allocating financial resources to the National Children Authority to enable it to carry out its child rights monitoring mandate.
- Fully implementing the national strategy to end child marriage and teenage pregnancy.

Persons with disabilities

- Guaranteeing the inclusion of persons with disabilities in national planning and budgeting processes, and ensuring support and resources to the National Council for Persons with Disabilities to enable the institution to fulfil its mandate effectively.

Refugees

- Continuing to implement the refugee policy and efforts to improve access of refugees to economic and social rights, and considering allocating adequate financial and technical resources to ensure the provision of quality child protection services for the children of refugees and children from host communities.

