



PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

19 January 2024

Madam,

I have the honour to refer to the fourth cycle review of Liechtenstein by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group at its 43rd session in May 2023. The constructive engagement between your Government, my Office, and the UPR mechanism is warmly welcome. As the final outcome report on the review of Liechtenstein was recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 54th session, I have also taken note of the efforts of your Government to implement specific recommendations since the previous review.

A matrix of thematically clustered recommendations, starting with those supported by your Government, is available at OHCHR's website (<https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/li-index>) and should be considered as part of this letter. The matrix indicates the recommending State and links each recommendation to relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In annex, I have also attached my Office's observations in light of the outcome of the fourth cycle of the UPR. In line with previous practice, I will be sending similar observations to all Member States once their fourth cycle UPR outcome is adopted by the Human Rights Council, with a view to follow-up action in close cooperation with national entities and other stakeholders.

I take this opportunity to draw your attention to the support available through the Voluntary Fund for UPR Implementation, which may be activated at the request and with the consent of a concerned State, along with tools such as the "UPR practical guidance" and the "UN good practices" repository on how the UPR process supports sustainable development, available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/upr-main>, with a view to facilitating efforts to implement UPR recommendations in line with the SDGs.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Volker Türk', written in a cursive style.

Volker Türk

Her Excellency
Ms. Dominique Hasler
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Education, and Sport of Liechtenstein



Observations in light of the outcome of the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review

The steps taken to combat all forms of discrimination and hate speech, enforce the criminal code, and criminalize hate speech and discrimination are welcome. Liechtenstein is encouraged to take further steps in this direction.

While noting steps taken to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Liechtenstein is encouraged to speed up the process. Furthermore, the progress of Liechtenstein in furthering the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons with the aim of enhancing their equal opportunities and improve their rights is welcome. Liechtenstein is encouraged to continue to combat prejudice and discrimination against LGBTIQ+ persons.

The ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence is welcome. Liechtenstein is encouraged to continue addressing gender-based violence and violence against women by adopting a comprehensive anti-discrimination law to advance equality and protection and increase representation in political, economic and social life, including in decision making.

The approval of the Integration Strategy in 2021 is a welcome measure to improve the participation of migrants in the social, economic, and cultural life of the country. Liechtenstein is encouraged to reconsider its position towards the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, to address issues of discrimination, violence, and access to education for migrant children, and to refrain from detaining asylum-seeking children and migrant families with children.

Liechtenstein is also encouraged to develop an implementation plan in follow up to the UPR outcome, in close consultation and cooperation with all stakeholders, in particular the Landtag (Diet), the judiciary, local and regional governments, and civil society organizations. The matrix referred in the letter may be of use in the development of such an implementation plan. The Government is encouraged to explicitly link each UPR recommendation to corresponding recommendations from other international and regional human rights mechanisms and to the relevant SDG and its targets. This will, in turn, facilitate the creation of synergies between UPR implementation and SDG-related actions and reporting within the context of the Voluntary National Review (VNR).

The Government is further encouraged to establish a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, with the aim of ensuring a coordinated and effective approach to reporting to international human rights mechanisms, and to implementing the recommendations, in line with the guidance provided by OHCHR following regional consultations and the High Commissioner's report to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/50/64).



Further, an important measure that could positively contribute to follow-up action is voluntary mid-term UPR reporting. All Member States are encouraged to submit a voluntary mid-term UPR report some two years after the adoption of the UPR outcome. In this regard, the Government of Liechtenstein may wish to consider submitting a mid-term report on follow-up to the fourth cycle UPR recommendations by 2025, detailing both implementation efforts as well as challenges to implementation, including the possible need for technical or capacity-building assistance.

OHCHR
19 January 2024