



PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

26 June 2024

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the fourth cycle review of Cabo Verde by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group at its 44<sup>th</sup> session in November 2023. As the final outcome report on the review of Cabo Verde was recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 55<sup>th</sup> session, I have 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/cv-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, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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

Volker Türk

His Excellency  
Mr. Rui Alberto Figueiredo Soares  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of Cabo Verde



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

Cabo Verde is commended for strengthening its mechanisms for protecting human rights, notably by designating the National Commission for Human Rights and Citizenship (CNDHC) as the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture. Steps taken to improve the prison system, in compliance with the Mandela Rules, and focusing on the social reintegration of inmates, are also positively noted.

Efforts to implement policies and legislative measures – in line with the Second Sustainable Development Plan (2022-2026) and the United Nations' Agenda 2030, with the motto "Leave No One Behind" – are appreciated. Furthermore, the adoption of the Social Inclusion Income and the Social Solidarity Income programs, aimed at supporting vulnerable families and informal sector workers, as well as measures taken to combat sexual exploitation and child labour, and the proposed anti-discrimination legal degree being created to cover minorities such as LGBTIQ+ people and persons with disabilities, are highly commended.

Concerns have been raised during the UPR review concerning Cabo Verde's reluctance to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including schools and care settings. In light of these concerns, Cabo Verde is encouraged to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings.

As highlighted during the UPR review, Cabo Verde is urged to take steps to ratify the relevant international human rights conventions to which it is not yet a State party, including the International Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the International Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the International Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Cabo Verde 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 National Assembly, the judiciary, local and regional governments, and civil society organizations. The matrix 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 further strengthen the Interministerial Commission for the Preparation of National Human Rights Reports, 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 in about two years after the adoption of the UPR outcome. In this regard, the Government of Cabo Verde may wish to consider submitting a mid-term report on follow-up to the fourth cycle UPR recommendations by 2026, detailing both implementation efforts as well as challenges to implementation, including the possible need for technical or capacity-building assistance.

OHCHR  
26 June 2024