



PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

COURTESY TRANSLATION

9 October 2024

Madam,

I have the honour to refer to the fourth cycle review of the Central African Republic by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group at its 45th session in January-February 2024. As the final outcome report on the review of the Central African Republic was recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 56th 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/cf-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.

Volker Türk

Her Excellency
Ms. Sylvie Baipo-Temon
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Francophonie, and Central Africans Abroad of Central African Republic



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

The adoption, in 2022, of Act No. 22.011 on the abolition of the death penalty is positively noted. The ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the harmonization of the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code with the above Act would constitute further important steps towards the effective abolition of death penalty in the country.

The adoption of the National Human Rights Policy, the Child Protection Code, and the Act on trafficking in persons is welcomed. Adopting comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, criminalizing marital rape, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, and adopting and implementing a national strategy to address sexual violence would further the effective protection of women and children from discrimination and violence, including sexual and gender-based violence. The Central African Republic is also urged to ensure the prohibition and punishment of the recruitment and use of children in hostilities.

During the UPR review, concerns were raised over the country's security situation and reports on human rights abuses perpetrated by armed groups. Additional efforts would need to be deployed to fully implement the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation and the Luanda Road Map, including measures to complete the ongoing disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration process to achieve durable peace and security and to fight against impunity, including by carrying out independent investigations into abuses and serious human rights violations. Ensuring adequate resources for the Truth, Justice, Reparation and National Reconciliation Commission and strengthening the criminal justice system would help advance the peace process.

Furthermore, while acknowledging ongoing efforts to promote the right to food, including the adoption of the programme, plan and strategy on food security, the Central African Republic is encouraged to establish a strong mechanism to protect populations from food insecurity and chronic malnutrition.

Central African Republic is also encouraged to update the implementation plan in follow up to the UPR outcome, in close consultation and cooperation with all stakeholders, in particular the parliament, 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 National Committee for the Drafting of Reports under International Human Rights Instruments, 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 Central African Republic 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
9 October 2024