



PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

9 October 2024

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the fourth cycle review of China 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 China 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/cn-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 black ink, appearing to be 'V. Türk', written in a cursive style.

Volker Türk

His Excellency
Mr. Wang Yi
Member of the Political Bureau of
the CPC Central Committee,
Director of the Office of the Central
Commission for Foreign Affairs and
Minister for Foreign Affairs of China



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

China's continued efforts to improve legal safeguards for human rights, strengthen the protection of the rights of workers, enhance the protection of the rights of women and children, including implementation of the Outline for Women's Development in China and the Outline on the Development of Chinese Children, and improve rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities are welcome.

Positive note is also taken of China's invitation to the Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures who visited the country in May 2024, as well as strengthened exchanges and cooperation with OHCHR. China is encouraged to consider extending an invitation to all UN Special Procedures and to respond positively to outstanding requests, as well as to engage further with all UN human rights mechanisms.

During the review, concerns were raised with respect to restrictions on civic space and the need to ensure that civil society members, human rights defenders, journalists and lawyers, including in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), are not targeted for exercising their freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly in line with international human rights law. Recommendations were made for China to bring security and counter-terrorism laws and policies in compliance with international human rights law and standards. The need to respect the rights to freedom of religion or belief, opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and culture, including for Tibetans, Uyghurs, and other minorities was also stressed. The need to ensure that all detainees are formally accounted for, granted access to their families and held in officially recognized places of detention was another issue raised. China is urged to undertake further efforts to address these concerns, including through legal reform.

China 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 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 encouraged to further strengthen the inter-departmental mechanism, 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 China 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