



PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

9 October 2024

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the fourth cycle review of Jordan 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 Jordan 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/jo-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.

Volker Türk

His Excellency
Mr. Ayman Safadi
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister
for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Jordan



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

Reforms around the economy, the public sector and political modernization, building on the Constitution and Labour Code are welcome measures to guarantee equal opportunities for women and protect them from all forms of discrimination and violence. Jordan is encouraged to continue implementing such reforms to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment in all spheres, as well as the participation of youth and persons with disabilities in decision-making processes, including in climate action.

The adoption of the Justice Sector and the Criminal Justice Strategy 2022-2026 is also a positive development, which requires continued implementation, including by expanding the use of modern technologies. Further measures are needed to strengthen and expand the coverage of the free legal aid system to civil proceedings, also for refugees and migrants, to improve the juvenile justice system, to ensure accountability for gender-based violence, and to combat child marriage.

Jordan is encouraged to address concerns raised during the UPR process over shrinking civic space, including the surveillance or intimidation of media and civil society, internet shutdowns, difficulties for civil society to operate or access funding, and arrests prior to or during protests leading at times to administrative detention. Jordan is also urged to repeal the Crime Prevention Law and to end the practice of administrative detention or at least to redirect authority for administrative detention from governors to the judiciary.

Further progress is needed to create favourable conditions for individuals, civil society organizations, journalists, and other media workers to exercise freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of association and peaceful assembly, including through bringing relevant legislation – such as the Cybercrime Law of 2023 – in line with international human rights standards and obligations.

Jordan 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, the National Centre for Human Rights, 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 avail itself of UN in Jordan support to realize such a plan.



The Government is encouraged to strengthen the Standing Committee on Human Rights as the National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up of Human Rights Recommendations, 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 Jordan 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