



PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

9 October 2024

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the fourth cycle review of Mauritius 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 Mauritius 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/mu-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. Maneesh Gobin
Attorney-General and Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Regional Integration, and International Trade
of Mauritius



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

The adoption of the Children's Act and the establishment of the Children's Court are welcomed. Additionally, the provision of free education represents a significant development in enhancing the protection of children's rights in Mauritius. The country's continued commitment to free health care is also noteworthy.

The ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was highlighted as a positive step during the interactive dialogue. Mauritius is encouraged to keep this momentum by ratifying additional international human rights instruments. In particular, the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, would further demonstrate Mauritius' commitment to upholding human rights and advancing global standards.

Several recommendations highlighted the need to continue and even intensify the efforts to combat trafficking in persons, and to implement the National Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons. Mauritius' support to these recommendations is welcomed, and my Office stands ready to provide technical advice on this matter.

Mauritius is urged to continue its efforts to combat gender-based and domestic violence, and ensure the full implementation and evaluation of its national strategy and action plan launched in 2020.

Mauritius is 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 Human Rights Commission, 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 National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow up, including the use of the national recommendations tracking database, 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 about two years after the adoption of the UPR outcome. In this regard, the Government of Mauritius may wish to consider resuming the practice of 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