



PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

9 October 2024

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the fourth cycle review of Nigeria 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 Nigeria 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/ng-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. Yusuf Maitama Tuggar
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria



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

Positive note is taken of the adoption of a zero-tolerance policy for torture and inhuman and degrading treatment and the designation of the National Human Rights Commission as an independent national prevention mechanism. In addition, the introduction of measures to address cases of enforced disappearance, including the creation of a register for victims and their families, as well as measures to eradicate trafficking in persons, including the prosecution of alleged perpetrators, are encouraging.

Due note is taken of the ongoing reforms of key institutions, including the judiciary, correctional services, and police, as reported by the delegation during the UPR review. In this regard, Nigeria is encouraged to undertake these reforms in consultation with all stakeholders and in full consideration of all the proposals received, including the proposal to appoint an independent police ombudsman in response to concerns over the handling of complaints against police officers.

The enactment of the Nigerian Correctional Service Act, 2019, which provides for the commutation of death sentences to life imprisonment in cases where all legal recourse has been exhausted and in cases where death sentences have not been executed after 10 years, coupled with the fact that executions have not been carried out in years, are all positive developments. Nigeria is encouraged to build on this momentum and to issue a de jure moratorium on executions and to work toward the abolition of the death penalty.

Nigeria is also encouraged to reconsider its position on recommendations relating to sexual orientation and gender identity in line with its commitment to promote and protect the human rights of all persons, as affirmed by the delegation during the review.

Nigeria is also encouraged to integrate UPR recommendations into existing human rights action plans, 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 assistance when undertaking this exercise. Nigeria 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).



Due note is taken of the establishment of the inter-ministerial National Committee on UPR implementation. Nigeria may wish to consider reforming this committee to enable it to fully function as a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up, 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, Nigeria 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