



PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

30 October 2023

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the fourth cycle review of Argentina by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group at its 42nd session in January/February 2023. The constructive engagement between your Government, my Office, and the UPR mechanism is warmly welcome. As the final outcome report on the review of Argentina was recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 53rd session, I have also 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/ar-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 blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'V' followed by a long horizontal stroke that tapers to the right.

Volker Türk

His Excellency
Mr. Santiago Andrés Cafiero
Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade
and Worship of Argentina



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

The adoption of a National Plan against Gender-based Violence (2022–2024), the Act on Access to Voluntary Interruption of Pregnancy, which came into force in January 2021, and the National Plan against Discrimination (2021–2024), are welcome. Argentina is encouraged to fully implement and enforce these measures.

Positive note is taken of Argentina's pledges to advance in the eradication of institutional violence and the national process of memory, truth, justice and reparation for crimes against humanity committed during the last dictatorship.

The establishment, in 2017, of the National Committee for the Prevention of Torture is an important step. Argentina is encouraged to increase its efforts to improve the protection of the rights of persons deprived of liberty and the condition of detention facilities, including addressing prison overcrowding.

During the review, recommendations were made to improve the economic, social, cultural and environmental rights of the population, particularly those in a more vulnerable situation. Additionally, while acknowledging efforts currently being made, Argentina is encouraged to undertake further steps to fully guarantee the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including their right to free, prior, and informed consent and their access to land.

Furthermore, Argentina is encouraged to accelerate the process of appointing a head of the *Defensoría del Pueblo de la Nación* and to ensure that this institution fully complies with the Paris Principles, in line with related recommendations accepted at its third and four universal periodic reviews.

Argentina 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 Chamber of Deputies and Senate, the judiciary, the *Defensoría del Pueblo de la Nación*, 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 of other international or 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 establish a national mechanism for 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 some two years after the adoption of the UPR outcome. In this regard, the Government of Argentina may wish to continue with the practice of submitting a mid-term report on follow-up to the fourth cycle UPR recommendations by 2025, detailing both implementation efforts as well as challenges to implementation, including the possible need for technical or capacity-building assistance.

OHCHR
30 October 2023