



PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

COURTESY TRANSLATION

19 January 2024

Madam,

I have the honour to refer to the fourth cycle review of France by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group at its 43rd session in May 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 France was recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 54th 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/fr-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, Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Volker Türk

Her Excellency
Mr. Stéphane Séjourné
Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France



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

France's commitment to continue its fight against poverty is particularly commendable and we wish full success to the “Solidarity Pact” (2023-2027) aimed at combating inequalities and expanding the policy of access to employment for all, particularly to prevent and rectify the situation of families and children in poverty or at risk of poverty. In the same vein, it is hoped that the second five-year plan on “Housing First” will be launched, not only to respond to emergency situations but also to provide long-term solutions.

Since 2001, France has extended a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council. In this context, it would be welcome that the pending visits can take place within reasonable time.

Concerning the use of force by security forces, it is important that such measure continue to be rigorously monitored through both internal and external oversight. A specific effort should be made to prevent the excessive and disproportionate use of force during demonstrations.

The processing of certain cases of asylum requests made by foreign minors isolated in France is a matter of attention. These minors should only be held in the waiting zone in cases strictly defined by law and their administrative detention should be strictly limited in duration, should be subject to judicial oversight and should not be considered a form of penitentiary detention, neither in law nor in practice. Upholding the best interest of the child should always be a primary consideration.

France is also encouraged to continue developing an implementation plan in follow up to the UPR outcome, in close consultation and cooperation with all stakeholders, in particular the National Assembly and the Senate, the judiciary, the National Advisory Commission on 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 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 in about two years after the adoption of the UPR outcome. In this regard, the Government of France 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
19 January 2024