



PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

*COURTESY TRANSLATION*

19 January 2024

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the fourth cycle review of Luxembourg by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group at its 43<sup>rd</sup> 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 Luxembourg was recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 54<sup>th</sup> 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/lu-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. Xavier Bettel  
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, Cooperation & Foreign Trade, and the Grand Region of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg



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

The ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) and measures adopted to strengthen national mechanisms in line with the Convention, as well as actions taken by Luxembourg to combat gender-based discrimination, in particular the National Action Plan on Equality between Women and Men, are welcome.

As noted during the review, measures to ensure the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, such as the adoption of the five-year National Action Plan on the Implementation of that Convention, measures to ensure the accessibility of elections, and the adoption of legislation, such as the Act on Inclusive Employment Assistance, are positive developments.

While measures adopted for the protection of children are noted, Luxembourg should accelerate its efforts to ensure that the juvenile justice system is in line with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, establish a specialized structure to accommodate children deprived of their liberty adapted to their needs, and ensure that the detention of children is a last resort and that alternatives to detention are enshrined in law and implemented in practice.

Moreover, it would be of great importance that, as highlighted during the review, measures are taken to enhance the effectiveness and independence of institutions such as the Advisory Commission on Human Rights of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, in particular by providing them with adequate resources.

Luxembourg 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, the judiciary, the Advisory Commission on Human Rights of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, 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 also encouraged to further strengthen the Inter-ministerial Human Rights Committee, 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 Luxembourg 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