



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 Mali 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 Mali 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/ml-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. Abdoulaye Diop
Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Mali



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

It is appreciated that, in 2022, the Malian National Human Rights Commission was reaccredited with A status by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions. Mali is encouraged to provide the commission with adequate resources in line with the Paris Principles and ensure it has unfettered access to all places of deprivation of liberty without restrictions.

Measures taken by Mali to bring to justice alleged perpetrators of descent-based slavery are welcome. The adoption of a specific and comprehensive law that criminalizes descent-based slavery and its analogous practices, in accordance with international and regional instruments, would be a positive step further.

Additional efforts are also required to combat impunity and strengthen accountability systems, by prosecuting all perpetrators of violations and abuses, including members of armed groups and the Malian security forces, and by guaranteeing victims' access to justice and reparation.

Mali is encouraged to abolish the death penalty, in particular by acceding to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. Mali is also encouraged to intensify the awareness-raising campaigns aimed at changing national opinion vis-à-vis female genital mutilations and child marriage.

Mali 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 Transitional National Council, 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 further encouraged to further strengthen the Interministerial Support Committee for the preparation of initial and periodic reports on the implementation of treaties ratified by Mali (CIMERAP), 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 Mali may wish to consider 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