



PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

19 January 2024

Madam,

I have the honour to refer to the fourth cycle review of Romania 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 Romania 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/ro-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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'V. Türk', written in a cursive style.

Volker Türk

Her Excellency
Ms. Luminita-Teodora Odobescu
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Romania



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

The initiation of the ratification procedure for the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances by Romania is a welcome development. Romania is encouraged to ratify the remaining international human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party.

Positive note is also taken of the entry into force, in 2022, of the three Justice Laws – on the rules governing judges and prosecutors, on the organization of the judicial system, and on the Supreme Council of the Magistracy – with the aim of improving the independence and effectiveness of the judicial system, and of the further dialogue with the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) on the matter.

Since the previous review, Romania has adopted various national strategies, including on the rights of persons with disabilities; preventing and combating antisemitism, xenophobia, radicalization and hate speech; social inclusion and poverty reduction; Roma inclusion; combating trafficking in persons; promoting equal opportunities and treatment between women and men and the prevention and combating of domestic violence; and environmental education and climate change. Romania is encouraged to ensure the effective implementation of these strategies, including by allocating sufficient resources for their execution.

Furthermore, Romania's announcement that it will re-evaluate the noted recommendations regarding same sex marriage or civil partnership, following the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights which requests Romania to provide legal recognition and protection to same-sex couples, is very welcome. Romania is invited to strengthen measures to fully ensure the protection of the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons and prevent and punish all forms of discrimination against them.

Romania 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 the Senate, the judiciary, local and regional governments, and civil society organizations. The matrix referred in the letter 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 some two years after the adoption of the UPR outcome. In this regard, the Government of Romania 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