



PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

COURTESY TRANSLATION

26 June 2024

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the fourth cycle review of Cameroon by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group at its 44th session in November 2023. As the final outcome report on the review of Cameroon was recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 55th session, I have 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/cm-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. Lejeune Mbella Mbella
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cameroon



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

Cameroon has committed to conducting effective, thorough and impartial investigations into reported cases of assassinations, enforced disappearances, intimidation, and harassment, as well as threats and reprisals against human rights defenders, journalists and members of civil society organisations. This commitment demonstrates Cameroon's determination to respect and protect the fundamental rights of all its citizens.

In addition, the government of Cameroon has expressed its willingness to accelerate the process of ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, thereby demonstrating its commitment to international human rights standards.

In this context, it is recommended to pursue efforts to harmonise national legislation with international human rights standards, and to strengthen institutional and legal frameworks to effectively protect these rights.

It is also recommended to implement a comprehensive legislation to combat gender-based violence, as well as to reform the Article 297 of the Criminal Code to ensure that sexual abusers do not go unpunished. In addition, measures must be taken to strengthen support for victims suffering mental health issues as a result of the violence they have endured. These commitments must be followed by concrete and effective measures to prevent such violations in the future.

Cameroon 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 Parliament, the judiciary, the National Human Rights and Liberties 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 strengthen the Interministerial Committee for monitoring the implementation of recommendations and/or decisions of international and regional mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights, 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 Cameroon may wish to consider submitting a mid-term report on follow-up to the fourth cycle UPR recommendations by 2026, detailing both implementation efforts as well as challenges to implementation, including the possible need for technical or capacity-building assistance.

OHCHR
26 June 2024