



PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

26 June 2024

Madam,

I have the honour to refer to the fourth cycle review of Canada by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group at its 44th session in November 2023. As the final outcome report on the review of Canada 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/ca-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 blue ink, appearing to read 'V. Türk', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Volker Türk

Her Excellency
Ms. Mélanie Joly
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Canada



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

During the adoption of the UPR outcome, Canada announced a number of voluntary commitments – a welcome practice, including plans to resettle over 136,000 refugees in the next 3 years. Positive note is taken of the ratification of important international instruments such as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Canada is encouraged to consider the ratification of additional international instruments, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as well as the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women.

The legislative developments that took place during the review period, such as the enactment in 2021 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and its 2023-2028 Action Plan, as well as the adoption of the National Housing Strategy Act (2019) are also notable.

In light of supported recommendations to combat racism, racial discrimination, intolerance and hate speech against religious and ethnic minorities, including Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent, Canada is encouraged to take further steps to combat discrimination against such groups and to address hate crimes and hate speech against them, as well as the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent and minority groups in the prison and the welfare systems. Canada is also encouraged to continue to take action to ensure Indigenous Peoples' rights, including their right to consultation and free, prior and informed consent, and to improve their access to health and welfare services. Canada is urged also to step-up efforts to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action and the calls for justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

As for recommendations received related to business and human rights and housing, Canada is encouraged to ensure access to remedies for victims of human rights abuses committed abroad by Canadian transnational corporations and to promote a due diligence law to prevent any abuse by Canadian companies and financial institutions operating in its territory and abroad. The issue of homelessness should also be addressed through tangible goals and timelines and strengthened measures, in line with the National Housing Strategy Act.

Canada 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 Parliament of Canada - Parlement du Canada, the judiciary, the Canadian 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 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 Canada 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