



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 Djibouti by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group at its 44<sup>th</sup> session in November 2023. As the final outcome report on the review of Djibouti was recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 55<sup>th</sup> 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/dj-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. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf  
Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Djibouti



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

The commitment of the Government of Djibouti to the fight against climate change is welcome. In particular, the ratification of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement and efforts made in the field of renewable energy, through ongoing projects to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions such as wind, solar and geothermal initiatives, and regional cooperation in the energy sector.

The adoption by Djibouti of a series of policies and reforms aimed at extending social coverage and guaranteeing adequate protection for workers and their families is most welcome. The social protection system provides medical coverage for the entire population through universal health insurance, including people with no income, through the social health-care assistance programme. The social housing programme and the construction in 2021 of a desalination and drinking water production plant through renewable energy are also important steps.

As raised during the review, the ratification of the following human rights instruments would further strengthen the national human rights protection system: the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The review of Djibouti also stressed the need to repeal provisions in the Family Code that discriminate against women and to further put in place measures to eliminate early child marriages and protect girls from sexual and gender-based violence. All necessary measures should be taken to put an end to practices whereby girls, victims of rape, are married to their aggressor, to strengthen the enforcement of the law against female genital mutilation and to eliminate gender-based discrimination against women in inheritance, family, and succession laws. Freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly must also be guaranteed, and all individuals must be protected from reprisals, particularly the opposition, journalists, and human rights defenders.

Djibouti 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 National Assembly, 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 Coordinating Committee for the Preparation and Submission of Reports to international human rights mechanisms, 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 Djibouti 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