



PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

26 June 2024

Madam,

I have the honour to refer to the fourth cycle review of Germany 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 Germany was recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 55<sup>th</sup> session, I have taken note of the efforts of Germany to implement specific recommendations since the previous review.

A matrix of thematically clustered recommendations, starting with those supported by Germany, is available at OHCHR's website (<https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/de-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.

Volker Türk

Her Excellency  
Ms. Annalena Baerbock  
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany



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

OHCHR takes positive note of the work of the Federal Employment Agency in promoting diversity and equal opportunity in the labour market, and the projects being implemented to assist third country nationals and to address, amongst other things, problems they might face. Due note is also taken of the strengthening of the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency, under the leadership of an independent Federal Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, with a view to enhance its effectiveness in protecting against discrimination.

OHCHR welcomes the establishment of the Independent Commission on Anti-Gypsyism and the adoption of the national strategic framework to tackle anti-Gypsyism. The Federal Government is encouraged to collectively implement the Commission's recommendations with the *Länder* and in close collaboration with the Sinti and Roma communities. Also welcomed is the establishment of an independent reporting agency on trafficking in persons within the German Institute for Human Rights and Germany's status as a pathfinder country within Alliance 8.7, aimed at supporting governments in achieving target 8.7 of Agenda 2030.

While positive note was also taken of the more than one million Ukrainian refugees and persons from other crisis and conflict zones that were receiving protection in Germany, there were challenges in this regard, including in ensuring the safety and security of refugees, in providing adequate housing, and in meeting the educational needs of children and adolescents, as acknowledged by the German delegation. OHCHR welcomes the measures introduced to address these challenges and looks forward to their vigilant implementation.

Of concern is a relatively high rate of domestic violence against women and the inadequate assistance offered to victims, as acknowledged by the German delegation. Further efforts are encouraged to eliminate barriers to the availability of adequate assistance to victims, including through the expansion of relevant facilities and counselling services. The high rate of child poverty, as acknowledged by the German delegation, is also of concern. Due note is taken of the measures introduced to address this matter, including the introduction of a basic child allowance. Germany is encouraged to ensure the full implementation of these measures.

Germany 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 Federal Council, the judiciary, the German Institute for Human Rights, local and regional governments, and civil society organizations. The matrix may be of use in the development of such an implementation plan. Germany 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).

Germany 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, Germany may wish to continue with the practice of 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