



PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

26 June 2024

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the fourth cycle review of the Russian Federation 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 the Russian Federation 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/ru-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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'V. Türk'.

Volker Türk

His Excellency  
Mr. Sergey V. Lavrov  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation



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

Positive note is taken of the announced improvement of the detention conditions for women, as outlined in the national report submitted ahead of the UPR review. Addressing the detention conditions of all persons deprived of liberty is urged, including in line with recommendations that were supported by the Russian Federation in this regard.

The support announced by the Russian Federation to the recommendations addressing the need to ensure the independence of the judiciary is critical, and concrete advancements in this direction are urged.

The need for accountability for serious human rights and international humanitarian law violations that were committed during the ongoing armed attack against Ukraine and within the associated context of occupation was raised. Although relevant recommendations were noted by the Russian Federation, this is an issue of utmost concern.

The need to guarantee the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression, the right of peaceful assembly and the right to freedom of association, including the need to repeal the “foreign agent” and “undesirable organization” laws, were raised during the review and the adoption of the outcome report. Although corresponding recommendations were noted by the Russian Federation, serious concerns remain about the limitations these laws bring to the above-mentioned rights and related shrinking of civic space.

The Russian Federation 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 State Duma and the Council of the Federation, the judiciary, 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 the Russian Federation 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