



PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

17 July 2023

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the fourth cycle review of Algeria by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group at its 41st session in November 2022. The constructive engagement between your Government, my Office, and the UPR mechanism is warmly welcome. As the final outcome report on the review of Algeria was recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 52nd session, I have also 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/dz-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, 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, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'V' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Volker Türk

His Excellency
Mr. Ahmed Attaf
Minister for Foreign Affairs
and National Community Abroad of Algeria



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

Algeria's adoption of a new Constitution by referendum in 2020, and the amendments thereto, are welcome. The new Constitution enshrines fundamental rights and liberties, as well as a balanced separation of powers. The adoption of Act no. 19-10 of 2019 amending the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Government's commitment to combatting violence, criminalizing all forms of violence, and the setting up of a group to review certain legal texts, including the second paragraph of article 326 of the Criminal Code, are also important steps.

The de facto moratorium placed on the death penalty since 1993 is welcome, and the Government of Algeria is encouraged to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights with a view to fully abolishing the death penalty. The establishment of various bodies concerned with the promotion of human rights, including the National Civil Society Observatory, the National Council for Women and the Family, and the Youth High Council, as well as the establishment of the Constitutional Court, are also welcome.

While noting Algeria's commitment to cooperate with the UPR and the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the Government could further advance its cooperation with treaty bodies by submitting its periodic reports, including overdue reports. Algeria is encouraged to pursue efforts to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Ongoing restrictions on civic space, including freedom of association, and the legislative requirement of prior authorization to exercise the right to assembly and demonstration, are concerning. Algeria is encouraged to align its draft organic laws on associations and media with international human rights standards. Overly broad definitions of terrorism, namely Article 87 bis of the Criminal Code and the executive decree no. 21-384, should not be used to justify the arrest and persecution of journalists, human rights defenders, and religious minorities. Despite freedom of worship and religion being enshrined in the new Constitution, discrimination against religious minorities and the closure of non-Muslim places of worship remain of concern.

Algeria 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, the judiciary, the national human rights institution, 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 of other international or 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 some two years after the adoption of the UPR outcome. In this regard, the Government of Algeria may wish to consider submitting a mid-term report on follow-up to the fourth cycle UPR recommendations by 2025, detailing both implementation efforts as well as challenges to implementation, including the possible need for technical or capacity-building assistance.

OHCHR
17 July 2023