



PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

20 January 2025

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the fourth cycle review of Eritrea by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group at its 46th session in April-May 2024. As the final outcome report on the review of Eritrea was recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 57th 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/er-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 be 'V. Türk', written in a cursive style.

Volker Türk

His Excellency
Mr. Osman Saleh Mohammed
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea



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

Considering the information provided by the delegation of Eritrea during the review, positive note is taken of the Health Sector Strategic Development Plan 2022–2026, and the alignment of programmes and policies with relevant SDGs with a view to achieving universal health coverage, increased access to maternal and newborn health care, the development in health infrastructure, and the introduction of infection prevention measures.

Other noteworthy developments include the adoption of the National Social Protection Policy and Strategic Plan for 2022–2026 to address socioeconomic vulnerabilities, the establishment of a national mechanism to safeguard the rights and welfare of children, and the revision of the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities to enhance the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Due note is taken of the concerns raised by States during the review, including the indefinite and involuntary conscription for national service; reports of intimidation, attacks, arbitrary detention, torture and enforced disappearances of journalists, political dissidents, and members of religious communities; and the lack of accountability for crimes committed in Ethiopia by members of the Eritrean Defence Force.

While a recommendation made during the review to maintain full cooperation with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms enjoyed the support of Eritrea, many recommendations calling for cooperation with special procedure mandate holders, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, did not enjoy the support of Eritrea. In the spirit of cooperation with the Human Rights Council, Eritrea is encouraged to extend full cooperation to special procedures mandate holders.

Eritrea is 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 local and regional governments, and civil society organizations. The matrix of thematically clustered recommendations 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 implementation, 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 about two years after the adoption of the UPR outcome. In this regard, the Government of Eritrea 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
20 January 2025