

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 55th SESSION

### Universal Periodic Review Outcomes

22 – 26 March 2024

#### TURKMENISTAN

**H.E. Mr. Vepa Hajiyev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan**, reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening democracy and human rights, as well as to the realization of sustainable development goals. It also expressed its readiness to continue to expand constructive cooperation programs, including human rights education, and the implementation of National Human Rights Action Plans. Turkmenistan continued to improve and develop its laws and regulations to guarantee people's rights in accordance with the Constitution and laws, in line with its obligations under the human rights treaties to which it is a party and the public policies and programs.

**Out of 228 recommendations; Turkmenistan accepted 146 recommendations and noted 82.**

The majority of accepted recommendations were in line with the human rights agenda and related to the ratification of international treaties and implementation of the international human rights instruments that have been ratified by Turkmenistan; promotion and increase of awareness on human rights issues, training judiciary and law enforcement bodies on human rights field, prevention of torture; Gender equality; protection of women and girls, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, stateless persons, migrants and minorities; ensuring the rights to health, education, development; realization of the rights of freedom of expression and access to information, as well as invitation of special rapporteurs; and Combating human trafficking.

Recommendations noted and rejected were characterized by unacceptability from the point of view of our culture, traditions, customs, mentality, and religion.

Turkmenistan further informed the Council about current proposals for harmonizing national legislation with international law; as well as activities for implementing human rights, including digital technologies in all sectors of the economy and social sphere, new jobs in the private sectors, and development of small and medium-sized businesses.

#### Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (12 country delegations):

*Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kirgizstan, Lao PDR, Montenegro, Maldives, Morocco, Nepal, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tunisia.*

#### NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (7):

Anti-Slavery International, Institute for Human Rights, VVV, Institute for Reported Freedom and Security, XXX, Amnesty International, International Lesbian and Gay Association.

International organizations: UNHCR, UN Women.

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## BURKINA FASO

**H.E. Ms Eliélé Nadine Traoré/Bazié, Ambassadeur Représentante Permanente Adjointe**, reaffirmed its faith in multilateralism and its attachment to the values and principles supported by human rights.

**Out of 265 recommendations made by Member States; Burkina Faso accepted 206 recommendations. 59 recommendations were noted.**

The 206 recommendations which received the support of Burkina Faso relate, among others, to subjects such as the care of victims of terrorism, the strengthening of the consideration of human rights in the fight against terrorism, violence based on gender, protection of children's rights, capacity building of the National Human Rights Institution, strengthening of the legal and institutional framework of human rights, improvement of human rights drinking water and sanitation, health, housing, strengthening cooperation with national and international organizations for the promotion and protection of human rights, strengthening dialogue, national reconciliation and social cohesion. Some of these accepted recommendations are already being implemented.

Regarding the 59 recommendations noted, Ms Traoré/Bazié underlined that despite the themes of interest, they did not benefit from the support of Burkina Faso due to either the divisive terminologies used in these recommendations or their inadequacy with the legal framework and the socio-political context at the national level. For example, it reported that the terminologies “armed groups”, “armed conflicts”, “aligned groups” and “international humanitarian law” are not appropriate in the Burkinabe context marked by a consecutive security crisis to terrorist acts, constituting offenses against criminal law.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (14 country delegations):

*Belgium, Benin, Botswana, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, India, Lesotho, Libya, Maldives.*

NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (7):

Centre du Commerce International pour le Développement, Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit - COC Nederland, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, International Service for Human Rights, Organisation pour la Communication en Afrique et de Promotion de la Cooperation Economique Internationale - OCAPROCE Internationale, Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme.

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## CABO VERDE

**H.E. Ms Clara Delgado Jesus, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Cabo Verde**, addressed the Council mentioning that the Government **partially accepted 6 recommendations, did not accept 84, and accepted 115 recommendations. In total, Cabo Verde took into consideration a total of 121 recommendations.**

She stressed that due to the importance that the Government attaches to the promotion and strengthening of human rights, it has implemented several transversal actions, among others, the dissemination and provision of legal information to citizens; guarantee of legal assistance to citizens who need it; continued implementation of the National Human Rights Plan, emphasizing the themes of human rights and citizenship education in basic, secondary and university education, in the training of teachers, in the conditions of entry into public administration and the training of police and prison officers, aligning their actions in accordance with international and regional human rights standards.

Ms Clara Delgado Jesus reported progress and policies and measures adopted regarding the treatment of prisoners and the management of correctional establishments. She mentioned the Strategic Sustainable Development Plan II which aims to eliminate extreme poverty and to reduce absolute poverty by 2026. In this vein, the Government is intervening on several fronts as a social emergency, prioritizing the areas of income, care and protection of children and adolescents; education, training, entrepreneurship, social and productive inclusion, health, housing, and social security.

Regarding the promotion and protection of children, the Government has made the issue of children a top priority, paying particular attention to the protection of their rights. In this sense, the country has approved a set of instruments to structure the protection system and fight against the sexual exploitation of children, and sexual violence against children and adolescents. Cabo Verde has also recorded significant progress in terms of gender equality and equity. It is considered the first in the West African region in terms of parity and equality, and 37th in the Global Parity Index in 2023, among 146 countries.

In conclusion, she stressed that despite the limited resources available to the country, the Government has paid particular attention to the issue of human rights and has spared no effort to create the necessary conditions for strengthening the promotion system and protection of human rights in the different sectors of the social life of Cape Verdeans.

### Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (10 country delegations):

*Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Djibouti, Gabon, Lesotho, Mauritania, Tunisia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).*

### NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (6):

Africa Culture Internationale, Centre du Commerce International pour le Développement, Interfaith International, International Service for Human Rights, Organisation pour la Communication en Afrique et de Promotion de la Cooperation Economique Internationale - OCAPROCE Internationale, Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme.

International Organizations: INHR

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## COLOMBIA

**H.E. Gustavo Gallon, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations Office in Geneva, reported that out of 231 recommendations made by the Member States; Colombia accepted 223 and noted 8 recommendations.**

In regard to the recommendations made on the 2016 Peace Agreement between the State and the FARC-EP and on challenges in the implementation of the Peace Agreement; the Ambassador reassured an advancing of the efforts to achieve total peace that allows all the inhabitants of Colombia to effectively exercise their rights. Colombia has every will to advance in the effective protection of human rights defenders and social leaders.

The investigation of cases of sexual violence in the context of the conflict and the withdrawal of the State's interpretative declarations to the CEDAW is a sign of Colombia's firm commitment to the rights of women and girls, by virtue of which Colombia gladly accepted the recommendations regarding equity and gender equality, as well as the fight against violence and discrimination of women and girls. Without the participation of women and girls, it is difficult to advance peacebuilding. For this reason, Colombia is committed to the development of the first national action plan on women, peace, and security, and has formulated a feminist foreign policy, with a pacifist, participatory and intersectional approach.

Mr Gallon welcomed recommendations on human security, aimed to reduce inequality and discrimination, care for migrants, protect people who are part of the LGBTIQ+ population, gender equality, the prevention of gender-based violence, the rights of boys and girls, social justice, protect and security guarantees for women leaders and human rights defenders, indigenous groups, the Afro-Colombian community and ROM, as well as the guarantees for the enjoyment of the economic, social and cultural rights of all. This is part of the agenda of the national government and the National Development Plan.

Considering the right of children and young people to access education essential, Colombia adhered to the Declaration on Safe Schools.

In conclusion, Mr Gallon informed the Council about voluntary commitments; including among others creating a follow-up mechanism for the recommendations made, in dialogue with human rights organizations; promoting all efforts for the implementation of public policy and the action plan for the dismantling of criminal organizations, to pursue the structures that are behind the most serious violations against defenders. human rights and peace signatories; strengthen policies that guarantee the life, integrity, and work of human rights defenders and social leaders; supervise the execution of sanctions imposed within the framework of transitional justice; and present charges, through the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, against those responsible for the most serious and emblematic crimes committed within the framework of the Colombian armed conflict.

### Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (14 country delegations):

*Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, China, Cuba, France, India, Maldives, Nepal, Philippines, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago.*

### NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (10):

AKAHATA, WILPF, Lawyers for Lawyers, Peace Brigades International, World Jewish Congress, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, The International Lesbian and Gay Association, IIMA, Colombia Commission of Jurists, The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia.

International organizations: UN Women.

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## UZBEKISTAN

**H.E. Mr. Eldiyor Toshmatov, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the UN offices in Geneva,** reported that out of 234 recommendations made by more than 80 countries, the State supported 219 recommendations and noted 15.

He then summarized the Country's approach in some key areas and addressed significant changes made. In particular, the position of the Children's Ombudsman was established. The parliament adopted a new Law on the Children's Ombudsman. Concerning the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, legal and administrative measures have been taken to improve the system of state support for persons with disabilities.

While condemning the use of torture and other types of violence; Mr Toshmatov reported the adoption of both institutional and legal mechanisms to strengthen human rights protection, incorporating the Nelson Mandela Rules into our legal system and practice. Amendments have been made to the Civil Code and to the Penal Code to guarantee the rights of prisoners to apply to international human rights bodies.

The Ambassador shared with the Council the reforms in the political, judicial, and legal spheres, increasing the role of civil society institutions, including religious freedom. The Election code has been modified to outline the process for conducting elections for the Legislative Chamber using a mixed electoral system that combines majority and proportional elements.

He concluded affirmed that the world is facing a critical environmental situation. The triple planetary crisis - crises of climate change, the loss of biodiversity, and environmental contamination are worsening. In such challenging conditions, while Central Asia continues to grapple with the Aral Sea tragedy, the region is becoming one of the most vulnerable parts of the world in the face of climate change. Uzbekistan is doing its best to mitigate the consequences of the Aral Sea tragedy, which remains a global problem. In June, in collaboration with the UN OHCHR and the OSCE/ODIHR, it will be hosting the Fourth Samarkand forum focused on climate change and human rights.

He concluded by stating that the recommendations noted were related to the Uzbekistan's legislation and policies. Our unique context has associated the practical and outcomes-based approach to implement our human rights obligations. This approach is based on a tradition of democratic and inclusive values and the rule of law. They aim to strengthen the protection of human rights and translate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into action ensuring that no one is left behind.

### Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (11 country delegations):

*Philippines, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Algeria, Azerbaijan, China.*

### NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (4):

International Lesbian and Gay Association, Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety, Lidskoprávní organizace Práva a svobody občanů Turkmenistánu z.s., Amnesty International.

International Organizations: UN Women, UNFPA.

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## TUVALU

**Ms. Laingane Italeli Talia, Attorney General of the Government of Tuvalu**, addressed the Council reiterating the State's commitment to the noble values and principles of the UN as enshrined in its Charter, and in the Universal Declarations on Human Rights.

**Out of 167 recommendations, Tuvalu supported 80 and took note of 87.**

Concerning the ratification of international human rights conventions, the Government acknowledged the importance and the relevance of these conventions to several of Tuvalu's international initiatives in securing the fundamental rights and freedoms of its people and its land territory against the devastating impacts of climate change.

Among the **recommendations noted**, Tuvalu may progressively realize its relevance and importance being also mindful of the limited resources and the need to contextualize it creating a balance between these rights and the traditional and cultural values that Tuvalu strongly preserves. Creating a balance between these rights and traditional and cultural values is a complex process. In particular, although Tuvalu is a party to CRC, and while it recognizes the importance of respecting, promoting, and protecting the **rights of children**, it reported its strong conviction, deeply rooted in tradition and cultural values, that children should be disciplined to a certain extent. Discipline in the sense that they are taught to know and understand what is expected of them as Tuvaluan children - know to respect, love, behave, and understand their limits.

In conclusion, the Attorney General affirmed that the achievable aspect is determined by the capacity and resources of the country. She sincerely called on the HRC and UN Member States to fully recognize Tuvalu's vulnerability to these challenges and to avail presence should our small island country voice out a request for assistance in its attempt to pursue the implementation of these recommendations.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (11 country delegations):

Algeria, China, Cuba, India, Maldives, Nepal, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, South Africa.

NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (1):

Center for Global Nonkilling.

International Organizations: UN Women, UNDCO.

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## GERMANY

H.E. Ms. Katharina Stasch, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, informed the Council that **out of 346 recommendations received, Germany accepted 283 recommendations and noted 63.**

The many recommendations addressed were around the following topics: **fighting racism and group-based discrimination; gender equality and women's rights; improving children and youth rights and the rights of migrants.** While Germany has reached a high level of human rights protection already, it is committed to taking a hard, self-critical look at the human rights challenges that need attention in the country.

Regarding **fighting racism and group-based discrimination**, Ms Stasch affirmed that the German government is committed to an open, democratic, and tolerant Germany and is taking numerous measures to address current challenges. Including, preventing and combating Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred; promoting democracy and diversity, advancing political education, and preventing extremism by supporting the efforts of civil society.

**Domestic violence** targeting women in Germany is a shocking fact, and the assistance provided does not yet meet the needs of the victims. She shared National policies.

Germany is addressing challenges related **to children, youth, and poverty** through a national action plan, educational measures, and basic child allowance.

Finally, she affirmed that the human rights of **migrant** workers and their families in Germany are comprehensively guaranteed by the human rights treaties ratified by Germany as well as numerous ILO standards. The Country is also working to address inter-related challenges related to the labor market, education of young refugees, unaccompanied minors, and asylum applications. The German Government believes that migration should be safe, orderly, and regular.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (15 country delegations):

*Libya, Montenegro, Maldives, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Philippines, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam.*

NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (9):

Alliance Defending Freedom, Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism, Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience, Humanists International, Institute for NGO Research, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, SOS Kinderdorf International, World Jewish Congress.  
International Organization: German Institute for Human Rights.

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## DJIBOUTI

H.E. Ms. Kadra Ahmed Hassan, Ambassador and permanent representative of the Republic of Djibouti to the United Nations office in Geneva provided additional information on the outcomes of the UPR review.

On this occasion, **259 recommendations were made** by the delegations to whom she expressed gratitude for their observations, recommendations, and encouragement during the interactive dialogue; **228 were accepted and 31 were noted**.

She mentioned that the accepted recommendations concerned themes, including the ratification of a certain number of human rights instruments; the cooperation with holders of special mandates; human trafficking; health of mother and child; girls' education; the fight against gender-based violence; marriage of underage girls; female genital mutilation; improvement of the judicial and prison system, and protection of the rights of vulnerable individuals and groups, among others.

In this vein, she reported that the Government has created an *Executive Secretariat*, a technical body placed under the National Vigilance Committee in the fight against the trafficking in persons and similar practices. Its missions are: to assist the government in the design, development, and implementation of policies, programs, and action plans relating to the prevention and fight against trafficking in persons and similar practices; to collect, analyze, and share with the departments concerned data and statistics on human trafficking; to coordinate the activities of actors involved in the prevention and fight against human trafficking; to advocate for the fight against human trafficking and similar practices; and to organize training for those involved in the fight against trafficking; among others.

Among other priorities, the **fight against poverty** has been raised to the rank of national priority, and an important institutional framework as well as a multitude of programs are being developed. They concern social development programs, social safety nets, empowerment, and financial inclusion, both in the capital and in the interior regions. In the context of access to housing, new partnerships have been established with private sector organizations and financial institutions to facilitate access to housing financing and encourage the construction of social housing.

### Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (13 delegations):

Oman, Philippines, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Tunisia, Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Algeria, Botswana.

### NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (6):

Center for Global Nonkilling, Interfaith International, Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues – FIDH, Centre for the National, Africa Culture Internationale.

International Organizations: UN Development Coordination Officer (UNDCO).

To watch the full meeting refer to [UN Web TV](#).



## CANADA

**H.E Ms. Leslie E. Norton, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada**, highlighted key themes that have arisen during the review and provided voluntary commitments on how the country will implement some of the accepted recommendations.

**Out of 332 recommendations, received from 122 States, Canada accepted without reservation 222 recommendations and took note of 78 recommendations. Among them, Canada has accepted in part 32 recommendations**, that require different responses or include elements that Canada is not able to accept or implement at this time; **and noted 29.**

Canada has noted recommendations for which there is currently no implementation plan because it would require new legislation or administrative measures to which the governments have not already committed or are not yet committed.

Ms Norton focused her report on national initiatives regarding the realization of the **rights of Indigenous Peoples**, including a new legislation, to ensure that all Indigenous communities have reliable access to clean drinking water and sanitation solutions. It is developing guidance on consulting and cooperating with Indigenous Peoples on natural resources projects that affect their lands or territories to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent. The overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples in the criminal justice system is a serious and complex issue rooted in systemic discrimination and the legacy of colonialism. Canada is committed to taking actions to address systemic factors that have contributed to such overrepresentation, and to improving our criminal justice system.

She affirmed that all forms of discrimination and hate are unacceptable and have no place in Canada, however, it is not immune to the troubling rise of Islamophobic and anti-Semitic hate. The Government of Canada is also committed to strengthening international engagement in its anti-racism work.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (17 country delegations):

*Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Maldives, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, France, China, India, Kazakhstan.*

NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (11):

Action Canada for Population and Development, AKAHATÁ Equipo de Trabajo en Sexualidad y Géneros Asociación Civil, Alliance Defending Freedom, Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism, Canadian Human Rights Commission, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), Edmund Rice International Limited, International Committee for the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, World Evangelical Alliance, World Jewish Congress.

International Organization: Canadian Human Rights Commission.

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## BANGLADESH

**H.E. Mr. Mohammad Sufiur Rahman, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the UN offices in Geneva**, informed the Council that out of **301 recommendations made by 110 countries, Bangladesh accepted 211 recommendations, 1 of them with comments, and noted the remaining (90)**. It is a responsible nation with a deep commitment to international human rights laws.

In particular, shared with the Council a few remarks concerning Bangladesh's approach to human rights. About the recommendations received in relation to acceding to the **1951 convention on refugees**, reiterating that is not a party, Bangladesh adhered to the core principles of the international protection regime, including the principle of non-refoulement. Bangladesh has been hosting forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals, providing them with all kinds of basic necessities. Unfortunately, over the last six years, not a single Rohingya could return to Rakhine.

As regards **the issue of 'indigenous peoples'**, the Constitution of Bangladesh does not designate or recognize any minority group or community of people in the country as 'indigenous people'. The Constitution, however, recognizes various tribes, minor races, ethnic sects, and communities and guarantees protection and development to them. The Government undertook targeted affirmative actions for them. No one is barred from running for public office because of their ethnic identity and their belonging to any tribe, race, ethnic sect, or community.

It affirmed that eliminating **child marriage** is a high priority for the Government (by 2041).

In conclusion, the **abolition of the death penalty**, in Bangladesh, remains a valid form of punishment and deterrence for the most serious and heinous crimes. However, there are multiple layers of safeguard before it is finally executed. Till now, the Government has not taken any decision to abolish, defer, or put a moratorium on the death penalty. However, it has been gradually edging out the death penalty with other forms of punishment, such as life imprisonment. Only a very small percentage of death sentences are executed.

As regards the **LGBT issue**, this is a religious, social, cultural, moral, and ethical issue for Bangladesh. While dealing with this issue, the Government takes into account the views, aspirations, sentiments, and religious beliefs of the majority of its people. The government is committed to ensuring fulfillment of the rights of all citizens of the country. There is no necessity to create a new set of rights, which is not universally accepted as a right. The Bangladesh Government has adopted several measures to ensure the human rights of the Third Gender people in the society.

### Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (14 country delegations):

*Japan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Libya, Maldives, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation.*

### NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (10):

Child Rights Advocacy Coalition in Bangladesh, Anti Slavery International, International Dalit Solidarity Network, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, Jubelin International, Centre for Global Non-killing, Asian Forum for Human Rights, FMSI, Stichting Global Human Rights Defence, Interfaith International.

To watch the full meeting refer to [UN Web TV](#).

## RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**Ms. Ekaterina Kudelich, Director of the Department of International Law and Cooperation, Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation**, reaffirming the commitments to the UPR procedure and considering an effective mechanism for exchanging positive experience in the protection of human rights, reported national results. **Out of 360 recommendations, the Russian Federation adopted 167 recommendations and partially accepted 35. The country did not accept 158 recommendations.**

She emphasized that the Russian Federation did not accept recommendations for several reasons, including, among other things, the contradiction of their content with the provisions of the current Russian legislation, law enforcement practice, and the main directions of state policy in relevant areas. Reasons for rejection also include the presence of some recommendations of factually incorrect or incorrect statements. The recommendations rejected did not comply with the norms of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, including provisions on the fundamentals of the constitutional system of the Russian Federation and its territorial integrity, including recommendations regarding the conduct of a special military operation and the situation in Ukraine.

Recommendations concerning Abkhazia and South Ossetia were rejected since these territories are not under Russian jurisdiction, and such issues cannot be the subject of discussion when Russia undergoes the Universal Periodic Review procedure.

Again, regarding the protection of children's rights, a large number of recommendations were devoted to children displaced from the zone of a special military operation. Although the Russian Federation is fully aware of the importance of the issue of protecting the rights of the child, including in the context of armed conflicts, it remains committed to its international obligations in this area and is open to constructive discussion of certain problematic issues in their implementation at various international platforms; it does not consider the UN HRC and the UPR mechanism to be a suitable forum for such a dialogue.

In the field of civil and political rights and freedoms, the Russian Federation recognized great importance. However, it affirmed that this does not exclude the possibility of the state establishing legitimate restrictions on such freedoms, provided that they are proportionate and consistent with the current challenges.

### Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (15 country delegations):

*Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Latvia, Libya, Lithuania, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, China, Poland.*

### NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (10):

Lawyers for Lawyers, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, Human Rights House Foundation, Conscience and Peace Tax International (CPTI), Humanists International, United Nations Watch, Amnesty International, International Bar Association, Association Ma'onah for Human Rights and Immigration.

To watch the full meeting refer to [UN Web TV](#).

## AZERBAIJAN

**H.E. Mr. Galib Israfilov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**, addressed the Council on the occasion of the adoption of the report of the 4th UPR, concerning the recommendations received during the cycle. Stressing the importance of the UPR process in improving human rights situations in the country and in understanding positive developments and challenges; reported that the Country **out of 319 recommendations, supported 185 recommendations, noted 88, and did not support 46.**

He informed the Council about the current Government's efforts to protect and promote the human rights of the population, including the ratification of several human rights instruments, Conventions, and optional protocols. Azerbaijan has transformed its national human rights protection agenda to be in consistent with SDGs. He presented national policies, plans, laws, and amendments adopted in this vein.

In addition, the Government adopted National Action Plans concerning the protection and promotion of women's rights, their active participation in public-social life, and the fight against domestic violence, as well as the children's rights and their needs. As a country with a multiethnic society, the Republic of Azerbaijan reaffirmed its determination to guarantee to all ethnic Armenian residents of the Garabagh region of Azerbaijan all rights and freedoms in line with its Constitution and relevant international human rights mechanisms. After the end of the war, Azerbaijan launched the peace initiative and began actively to promote the idea of normalization of relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia and the peace process. The Government takes necessary measures to protect cultural monuments in Garabagh, including putting them under the protection of law enforcement bodies.

However, despite all these reforms and efforts, the demining, as well as clearing of the liberated territories from the unexploded military ammunitions and installations, remain the main challenge affecting the above-mentioned targets and priorities. Hundreds of civilians, including women and children have become the victims of the indiscriminate mining activity. Additionally, the issue of missing persons is one of the most important humanitarian and human rights problems facing my country.

In conclusion, Mr Israfilov affirmed the in UN human rights mechanisms and their positive impact on society and contribution to regional and global peace and stability. This type of dialogue should always be conducted in an objective and non-political manner, just as human rights are universal and indivisible.

### Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (13 country delegations):

*Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Türkiye, Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe, Algeria, Armenia.*

### NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (10):

Action Canada for Population and Development, International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR), Lawyers for Lawyers, Institute for Human Rights, Human Rights House Foundation, International Lesbian Gay Association, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights, Conscience and Peace Tax International (CPTI), Legal Analysis and Research, Institute for Report and Freedom.

International Organizations: UNFPA.

To watch the full meeting refer to [UN Web TV](#).

## CAMEROON

**H.E Mr. Salomon Eheth, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organization, and other International Organizations in Geneva,** reported that the Country received 291 recommendations, made by 110 delegations. This high number of recommendations certainly reflects the interest of the international community in the situation and development of human rights in Cameroon. **The Country accepted 220 recommendations and noted 71.**

He reassured that **for accepted recommendations, implementation measures are underway.** They are related to the ratification of international instruments, the internalization of certain ratified conventions, and the strengthening of international cooperation; strengthening the institutional, normative, and strategic framework for promoting human rights; the rights to health, education, a healthy environment, and a fair trial; good governance and the fight against corruption; the fight against impunity, including in cases of torture; protection of vulnerable groups: children, women and girls, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples and minorities; the fight against terrorism and the management of human rights in the context of the socio-political crisis in the North-West and South-West Regions of Cameroon; protection of freedoms of expression, association, assembly and public demonstration; the protection of journalists, human rights defenders and members of civil society; improving detention conditions; and, improving the living conditions of populations.

Regarding the **recommendations noted**, Mr Eheth affirmed that they are related to issues not in line with its aspirations, its options, and its political, social, and cultural realities. This is particularly the case for the abolition of the death penalty, Cameroon already practices a de facto moratorium, and its maintenance in criminal legislation simply contributes to deterrence; the decriminalization of abortion, with the Penal Code indicating the cases in which it can be legally practiced; the decriminalization of homosexuality, which is contrary to the moral and cultural values of Cameroon; and the revision of the 2014 law on the suppression of acts of terrorism.

### Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (17 country delegations):

*Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cina, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, India, Lesotho, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria.*

### NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (10):

East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, Right Livelihood Award Foundation, Centre for Global Nonkilling, WILPF, COC Netherlands, National Service for Human Rights, FIACAT, Advocates for Human Rights, Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme, Centre du Commerce International pour le Développement.

International Organizations: Commission on Human Rights of Cameroon.

To watch the full meeting refer to [UN Web TV](#).

## CUBA

**H.E Mr. Juan Antonio Quintanilla Román, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Cuba**, affirmed Cuba's commitment to working with the UN human rights mechanisms and its institutions of universal and non-discriminatory application, particularly the Universal Periodic Review.

He affirmed that the Cuban government **has accepted 292 recommendations, which constitutes 81% of the total received**. The group of recommendations that **do not have the support of the government** are those that are politically biased and built on bases that do not adhere to reality. These recommendations are incompatible with constitutional principles and the Cuban internal legal system, and their content is contrary to the spirit of cooperation and respect that must prevail in the UPR. They seek to discredit the country through those who, with their hegemonic ambitions, refuse to accept the right of self-determination of the Cuban people and the diversity of political, economic, social, and cultural systems in the world.

The Country agreed with the denunciation, by several speakers, of the negative impact of the **economic, commercial, and financial blockade** imposed by the United States on the enjoyment of the human rights of the Cuban people. The blockade is a massive, flagrant, and systematic violation of the rights of people. The blockade is the fundamental cause of the low shortage of medicines and food, even for the regulated basic basket, which is insufficient, but everyone receives it highly subsidized.

Regarding the group of recommendations **noted**, their analysis will continue in accordance with Cuban laws, the country's institutional processes, and the principles that govern the political system sovereignly chosen by the Cuban people. In Cuba, the process of ratification of an international treaty is assumed with rigor and seriousness.

The Cuban government remained committed to the promotion and respect of rights to life, liberty, and security of people, as well as human dignity. Respecting the arguments of the international movement that proposes the elimination or moratorium on the application of the death penalty; it is opposed to the application. Since 2003, there is no one convicted in the country. At the same time, it has chosen, in legitimate defense of the national security of citizens against terrorism, the path of establishing severe laws against terrorist activities and crimes aimed at destroying the Cuban State or the lives of its citizens, always adhered to the strictest legality and with respect for judicial guarantees.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (13 country delegations):

*Gabon, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Libya, Maldives, Morocco, China, Nigeria.*

NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (5):

Centre CCPR, United Nations Watch, International Plan, Amnesty International, Nation Jurists of Cuba.  
International Organizations: Coordination Office of the UN in Cuba.

To watch the full meeting refer to [UN Web TV](#).