

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 56th SESSION

Universal Periodic Review Outcomes

04-08 2024

SAUDI ARABIA

Dr. Hala Mazyad Altuwaigri, President of the Human Rights Commission of Saudi Arabia, reported that the country received during the 45th session of the UPR Working Group, **354 recommendations** from 135 states. The country accepted more than 80% of the recommendations. Specifically, it **accepted 273 recommendations. 24 recommendations were partially accepted. It took note of 52 recommendations, and five have been rejected.**

A number of recommendations were based on a conception or an understanding that is imprecise about the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia or based on inaccurate sources. The recommendations rejected were outside the realm of the instruments that the UPR is based on or did not fulfill the requirements of the UPR of impartiality, transparent nonconfrontational, and non-politicized.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia received a series of recommendations concerning the **right to education, the right to development, the right to child protection, the rights of women, and the rights of persons with disabilities and the rights of the elderly, and the rights of others,** including the need to **combat human trafficking.** These were accepted.

Additionally, the country accepted around 80% of recommendations having to do with the legal institutional framework of human rights in the country and the national strategies and plan as well as the justice system and criminal justice and the rights of workers as well as those pertaining to international regional collaboration.

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

Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar, Lebanon, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Oman.

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

Human Rights Watch, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights, Gulf Centre for Human Rights (Gchr) Limited, Advocates for Human Rights, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, International Service for Human Rights, Centre du Commerce International pour le Développement, Amnesty International, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association.

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

SENEGAL

H.E. Mr. Coly Seck, Ambassador of the Republic of Senegal to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations, reported that the country received 322 recommendations. It accepted 299, which is 92%, and noted 23. The accepted recommendations were related to rendering more effective the enjoyment of the rights of vulnerable groups including women, girls, children, elderly persons, and others and to reforming our national human rights institution in line with the Paris principles.

Senegal accepted without reservation and committed to comprehensively implementing recommendations in line with an inclusive process involving stakeholders and civil society.

In March 2024, Senegal elected a new President of the Republic, in line with its republican and democratic tradition. This peaceful transition illustrates once again the stability of the Senegalese democratic model which has for a long time been guided by the legitimate aspirations of its whole people toward a society that is more equitable, more transparent, and more respectful of human rights. It is in this vein that the new authorities and the new government place human rights at the heart of their vision. They committed to structural reforms whose goal is to consolidate the achievements made and to overcome challenges in the sphere of promoting and protecting human rights in order to ensure even more prosperity and well-being for the Senegalese population.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (16 country delegations):

Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan.

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

Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit - Coc Nederland, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, Réseau de Formation et de Recherche sur les Migrations Africaines (Reformaf), Amnesty International, Centre du Commerce International pour le Développement, Interfaith International, Rencontre Africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme.

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

CHINA

Mr. Chen Xu, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva, reported that out of 428 recommendations given by the Delegates during the review, the established mechanism **accepted 298 constructive recommendations** that suited China's conditions. The recommendations accepted covered various rights such as civil and political rights, economic, social, and cultural rights, and the right to development. In particular, concerning consolidating the achievements in poverty alleviation, improving people's well-being, ensuring people's running of the country, improving legal safeguards for human rights, promoting science, education, culture and public health, advancing the cause of women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly, implementing the national human rights action plan and actively engaging in international human rights cooperation. Regarding some recommendations that are politically motivated based on disinformation, ideologically biased, or interfering in China's judicial sovereignty, the country firmly rejected them.

It underlined that the UPR is an important platform for countries to conduct equal-footed and candid exchanges on human rights issues and engage in constructive dialogue and cooperation within the framework. The purpose of the UPR is to increase exchange and mutual learning and promote common progress. China is willing to work with all parties for constructive review and to maintain the dialogue-oriented and cooperative nature of the UPR while upholding the principles of objectivity, fairness, non-selectivity, non-confrontation, and non-politicization. He also reported progress and improvements of the country in different aspects. In particular, he reported the Chinese guidelines on the protection of the rights of workers in new forms of employment, strengthening the protection of the rights of workers and their interests.

The country provided information in relation to measures on women's and children's rights, including health rights and improving the environment for the people. It stressed the people-centered approach, promoting high-quality development with new quality productive forces and delivering the fruits of modernization to our people more substantively and equitably. Concerning the implementation of a one-country, two-systems policy in a comprehensive manner, the people in Hong Kong SAR and Macau SAR enjoy extensive rights and freedoms safeguarded by the law.

Mr. Chan Kwok-ki, Eric Chief Secretary for Administration – Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, shared the achievement in terms of constitutional duty by enacting a new core legislation to safeguard national security. People in the region can reclaim their peaceful and prosperous way of living. They can fully enjoy the legitimate rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution and the basic law. Our economy is growing and is as vibrant as ever.

He mentioned that with the rule of law, a highly efficient market, a clean government, a free flow of capital, talent, information, and goods, as well as an international lifestyle, Hong Kong has everything it takes to be a world-class city. At the same time, with efforts to foster a caring and inclusive society, we continuously promote the welfare of the elderly, children, and women, as well as the rights of local and imported workers alike.

Ms. Leoung Wengin, Director of the Legal Affairs Bureau – Macau Special Administrative Region, remained committed to promoting the development of human rights, continuing to advance this work under the legal framework of the international human rights convention. Macau SAR's government has always adhered to the people-oriented approach and has continued to protect and improve people's livelihood, investing in significant resources in education, healthcare, housing, and social security, including free education, free primary healthcare service, various types of public housing, minimum wages, various types of grants and two-tiered social security system so that residents can practically enjoy the fruits of economic development.

He mentioned that after the review, the Macau SAR has completed the legislation of the trade union law. This will provide a clearer legal basis for employees to join and form trade unions and will further safeguard labor rights and interests. In addition, the Macau SAR attached great importance to protecting the rights of vulnerable groups, improving their quality of life, and promoting social harmony and stability.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (16 country delegations):

Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Gambia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Russian Federation, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda.

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

China NGO Network for International Exchanges, Beijing Crafts Council, International Service for Human Rights, Beijing Global Talent Exchange Association, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Zhongguancun Green Mine Industry Alliance, Amnesty International, Beijing NGO Association for International Exchanges, International Pen, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues.

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

NIGERIA

Ms. Beatrice Jeddy-Agba Oon, Solicitor-General of the Federation of Nigeria and Permanent Secretary provided to the Council additional information in relation to the Universal Periodic Review Report. That process produced a **total of 346 recommendations from Member States**. The multi-stakeholder interministerial committee **accepted 279 recommendations, while the remaining 67 recommendations were noted but not accepted**. She informed the council of the reasons behind the decision to accept or note recommendations.

In relation to the recommendations on the death penalty and moratorium, there has been a considerable decrease over the years in the implementation of death sentences and significant steps have been made with the issue of involuntary moratorium on the death penalty.

In her conclusive remarks, she reaffirmed the very unwavering commitment to defending, promoting, and protecting human rights principles and upholding the time-honored ethos of all mechanisms established by this body. Nigeria remained dedicated to continuous and constructive engagement with the international community in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms under international human rights obligations.

Further, she addressed and underscored the very concerning introduction of controversial concepts that deviate from recognized international human rights instruments and undermine the principles of universality and objectivity. These nonconsensual concepts infringe upon the sovereignty and social cultural and religious sensitivities of several Member States including Nigeria. Nigeria acknowledging the universality of rights, firmly rejected attempts to impose concepts and ideas that contradict the core principles outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Mr. Tony Ojokwu, National Human Rights Institutions of Nigeria, reiterated that the Nigerian parliament has amended the law establishing the commission and giving it more independence, security of tenure of members, guaranteed funding to the consolidated revenue fund of the federation, and additional requisite powers to discharge its mandate independently. The government has designated the commission as a national preventive mechanism of Nigeria under the optional protocol against torture in fulfillment of its international obligation under that treaty. It has also established a treaty and international obligations interministerial committee to facilitate the implementation of UPR outcomes and other international obligations.

The government has also collaborated with the commission in the development of the second national action plan for the promotion and protection of human rights from 2024 to 2028 and the national action plan on business and human rights in line with the UN guiding principles on business and human rights.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (16 country delegations):

Lesotho, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Oman, Philippines, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia.

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

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Advocates for Human Rights, Humanists International, International Lesbian and Gay Association, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Action Canada for Population and Development, British Humanist Association, Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit - COC Nederland, International Service for Human Rights, World Evangelical Alliance.

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

MAURITIUS

Ms. Usha Chandnee Dwarka-Canabady, Ambassador Representant of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations Office in Geneva, informed the Council that 121 Member States during the UPR made **303 recommendations**. Among these, **204 recommendations have been supported and 99 have been noted**. The 204 supported recommendations cover issues ranging from improved measures for the protection of children and persons with disabilities, the provision of education and healthcare, the empowerment of women, adaptation to climate change, environmental protection, the welfare of migrant workers, and disaster risk management.

Mauritius was fully committed to the promotion and protection of human rights as demonstrated by the ratification of seven out of nine core human rights conventions. In addition, social aid is also provided to widows, orphans, and persons with disabilities. Key legislation has been enacted over the years to strengthen the legislative framework for improved protection of the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of our citizens.

The country committed to five pledges regarding the provision of health care, education, social protection, combating gender-based violence, and promoting the rights of the child.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (16 country delegations):

Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Algeria, Barbados.

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

International Lesbian and Gay Association International Service for Human Rights, Center for Global Nonkilling, Centre du Commerce International pour le Développement, Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme.

International Organization: UNFPA.

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

MEXICO

Mr. Joel Hernández, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reported that 115 Member States acknowledged the progress made by Mexico in recent years and put forward **318 recommendations**. These recommendations were analyzed one by one responsibly and constructively through a far-reaching process of consultations with 49 authorities from the executive, legislative, and judiciary. Similarly, recognizing civil society as a vital player, contributed to a candid, honest, and transparent dialogue and meeting with them whereby we shared our position as to the recommendations received. As a result of this process, **Mexico has accepted 304 recommendations, 96% of the total number of recommendations**. They reflect the most pressing challenges of the country.

He reported that Mexico received these recommendations within the context of a change in government. On the 2nd of June last, the largest democratic elections took place. Almost 100 million people voted. As a result of the people's desire, Mexico elected the first female president of its republican life. *The change in government is an opportunity for the recommendations to serve as an assessment that will feed into the design of programs in the field of human rights of the incoming administration.* Their social rights will continue to be dealt with as well as welfare, well-being, discrimination and violence, the reduction of inequality, and the eradication of extreme poverty based on one principle which already marks Mexico's transformation and that is for the well-being of all, first of all, for the poor. Labor mobility, and safe, dignified, and orderly migration are topics of major importance.

Ms. Francisca E. Méndez Escobar, Ambassador Representant of Mexico, focused her presentation on recommendations accepted. In particular, Mexico accepted recommendations (32) aimed at implementing policies to respect, guarantee, and protect the principles of equality and non-discrimination. In line with the priority of the rights of persons in vulnerable situations, it accepted six recommendations. In terms of the progress made on **social policy**, Mexico implemented strategies aimed at the social prevention of crime (drop in crime rates).

In terms of **national gender equality policy and feminist foreign policy**, Mexico promoted non-discrimination, equal opportunities, substantive equality, and equal participation in all areas. It accepted 14 recommendations in this field. Gender equality will continue to be a pillar for sustainable development, building peace, and the recomposition of the social fabric. In terms of prevention and eradication of **violence against women**, the country accepted 41 recommendations to continue to coordinate efforts and to foster policies to ensure women's rights to a life free from violence. **Indigenous communities and African-Mexican communities** are a priority and thus all social programs include an intercultural and gender perspective. To underscore this commitment Mexico accepted 16 recommendations in this field. Mexico will continue to undertake coordination work to maintain the cultural value and identity of indigenous communities. The Mexican government accepted several recommendations to underline its commitment to work to eradicate serious **expressions of hate, homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia**; to prohibit discrimination based on **disability**; and to guarantee **orderly, safe, and regular migration flows**; to reduce the **use of force** and only used proportionality, legality, rationality, opportunity, and accountability. Similarly, Mexico stated its full commitment to abolishing **torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment**. In conclusion, acknowledging the importance of protecting **human rights defenders and journalists**, Mexico accepted 32 recommendations that focus on the fact that these people can undertake their work in a safe environment without fear of reprisals or attacks. **Searching for disappeared persons** is

also a priority. Recommendations accepted coordinate efforts between the institutions for the search, localization, and identification of persons improving the response capacity through measures with national Governments and international cooperation.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (16 country delegations):

Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Gambia, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic.

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

Advocates for Human Rights, International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims, Christian Solidarity, Peace Brigades International, Akahatá Equipo de Trabajo en Sexualidad y Géneros Asociación Civil, Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, International Lesbian and Gay Association, Franciscans International, Alliance Defending Freedom.

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JORDAN

His Excellency Mr. Walid Khalid Abdullah Obeidat, Ambassador Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations Office at Geneva, stressed that Jordan is founded on values instilled in Islamic and humanitarian principles that aim to raise the status of the human being, preserve his dignity, preserve his entity, and affirm his right to a dignified life, freedom, and equality. All of this has been translated through the inclusion of the protection and preservation of basic freedoms in all areas of life.

Accordingly, Jordan is considering a comprehensive reform project that includes modernizing the political system, and the economic and public sectors. These are all national efforts based on the values of tolerance, freedom, and dignity, and emulate international developments in establishing the principles of justice, the rule of law, and equal opportunities, and aim to make a qualitative shift in promoting the civil, political, economic and social rights of Jordanian men and women in a life worthy of them, empowers Jordanian women in all aspects of public life and advances youth in all aspects. Confidence and ability to be the title of the new Jordanian century.

He reported that **out of 279 recommendations presented to Jordan**, 196 were accepted, while 83 recommendations were taken into account, and to ensure the sustainability of consultations. Further, 8 were reconsidered and accepted. **This makes the number of accepted recommendations up to 204 and the number of recommendations now is 75.** He informed the Council that a number of the recommendations that “take note of” may be acceptable to us if they were worded differently and used different vocabulary.

Then he reported details of how Jordan implemented such recommendations. In particular, the Government of Jordan informed ongoing implementation of the Penal Code provisions, criminalizing torture in all forms, practices, and actions; a Cybercrime Law, guaranteeing the protection of freedom of expression; and improvement on the national educational system.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (16 country delegations):

Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, LAO PDR, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal.

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

Front Line the International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Advocates for Human Rights, Plan International, Inc., United Nations Watch, Center for Global Nonkilling, Amnesty International, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, Institut International pour les Droits et le Développement, Lutheran World Federation, Amman Center for Human Rights Studies.

To watch the full meeting refer to UN WEB TV: [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).

MALAYSIA

Her Excellency Dato' Nadzirah Osman, Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations Office in Geneva, reported that out of **348 recommendations** made by 130 participating States at the Review session, Malaysia **accepted 223 recommendations, whereby 182 recommendations were accepted in full, and 41 recommendations were accepted partially**. Malaysia **took note of the remaining 125 recommendations**.

Generally speaking, the recommendations that Malaysia *accepted in full* indicate Malaysia's support for the spirit and the principles underpinning those recommendations. The recommendations that Malaysia *accepted in part* indicate that each of the recommendations contains several recommended actions of which Malaysia could only support one or more of the actions being recommended but not the recommendation in its entirety. This is because steps towards achieving the objectives of the recommendations do not agree with the specific actions or wording used in the recommendations, or because some parts of the recommended actions are not within the power of the Federal Government. The recommendations that Malaysia *took note of* are recommendations that call for changes to existing laws, regulations, and policies within impractical timeframes or infringe on matters that Malaysia is not in a position to consider.

In conclusion, she highlighted several notable progress that Malaysia has made since January 2024. In particular, legal and institutional reforms to address the citizenship issue, as well as to promote and protect the rights of women, children, and persons with disabilities; the establishment of the Tribunal for Anti-Sexual Harassment, which provides a right of redress for victims or complainants, who have been sexually harassed; an extension of social security protection under the Employees Social Security Act to include foreign workers; and a Bill to increase mandatory schooling for children from primary school to secondary school; among others.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (16 country delegations):

Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya.

NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (8):

Action Canada for Population and Development, Alliance Defending Freedom, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit - Coc Nederland, Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (Arrow), Civicus - World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Amnesty International, Center for Global Nonkilling.

International Organization: UNFPA.

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

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Mr. Djoubaye Abazene, Minister of State for Justice, Human Rights and Good Governance, affirmed that out of **244 recommendations**, the country approved the majority of those, while a few were simply noted. In particular, CAR accepted 238 and noted 6 recommendations.

The Minister informed the Council about recommendations becoming irrelevant because they have been already implemented in the territory, including in local and regional elections, national Human Rights institutions, legal aid, and the minimum age of marriage.

In conclusion, he affirmed that the Central African Republic has had a global strategy framework for actions in the area of Human Rights since 2023. In its priority areas, has retained all the concerns emerging from its recommendations that we are examining today.

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

Venezuela, Viet Nam, Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, India, Malawi, Maldives.

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

Defence for Children International, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Meezaan Center for Human Rights, Center for Global Nonkilling, Réseau de Formation et de Recherche sur les Migrations Africaines (Reformaf), Centre du Commerce International pour le Développement, Interfaith International, Rencontre Africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme, Association Ma'onah for Human Rights and Immigration, Health and Environment Program (Hep).

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

MONACO

Her Excellency, Ms. Carol Lanteri, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Principality of Monaco to the United Nations office in Geneva, announced that Monaco has **accepted up to 92 recommendations amongst the 147. It took note of 55 recommendations.**

The 92 recommendations that have been fully accepted by Monaco refer to measures that are now being implemented or being finalized. This is the case for the review underway of the 2013 sovereign ordinance on the establishment of the High Commissioner for the protection of rights and freedoms and mediation of Monaco and strengthening its investigative power.

As to **combating all forms of discrimination, violence, or abuse against persons because of their sexual orientation or gender identity**, she underscored that the principle of equality is recognized by the Constitution. LGBTIQ + persons living in the free union can now enjoy a common life contract regardless. Regarding the **freedom of religion**, the Catholic religion is the state religion, however, the Constitution guarantees the freedom of worship.

As to the **fight against human trafficking**, she pointed out that to date no case of trafficking has been brought before the courts in Monaco. The government and the judicial services are working, however, on drawing up an interservice coordination plan, to identify and address potential victims of trafficking including compensation. Concerning the situation of **migrant workers**, foreigners authorized to work in Monaco benefit from the provisions of labor law. Thus, this law regulates the contract and length of period of work. Furthermore, the state is the guarantor of the **right to education for all** and addresses bullying at school. The protection of children against corporal punishment has been strengthened. Turning to the prevention of **violence against women**, the definition of domestic violence is now strictly in line with the convention of the Council of Europe. Thus, facts and events committed, or crimes committed amongst partners living under the same roof are now covered.

In conclusion, she affirmed that Monaco noted 55 recommendations because of the various mechanisms implemented to attain the desired objectives or because they are incompatible with the features of the Principality. She listed a few.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (16 country delegations):

Algeria, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Gambia, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Morocco, Nepal, Philippines, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam.

NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (2):

Center for Global Nonkilling, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches.

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

BELIZE

Ms. Gianni Avila, Ambassador of Belize to the Kingdom of Belgium and the European Union, affirmed that Belize received a **total of 166 recommendations during the interactive dialogue. Out of these, it accepted and supported 127 recommendations, while it noted 38, in whole or in part.**

Most of the accepted recommendations are already in progress, as they align with the Plan Belize Medium-Term Development Strategy. This alignment facilitated the ready acceptance and continued implementation of these recommendations.

Based on their thematic focus, she shared additional comments on the recommendations accepted. In particular, she mentioned that Belize is already taking significant steps to establish a **National Human Rights Institution (NHRI)** in compliance with the Paris Principles in accordance with the approval of the Executive. Additionally, she affirmed that Belize remains steadfast in its commitment to enhancing collaboration with **Treaty Bodies**. In respect of **gender equity**, Belize was pleased to announce a National Gender Policy. The policy focuses on the gaps and areas for further action including inter alia areas of health, education, employment creation, and gender-based violence. It strengthens the coordination of an integrated multi-sectoral approach in the implementation of gender programs across all sectors for equitable distribution, participation, and management of resources for national development.

On the other hand, on the recommendations relating to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and the **abolition of the death penalty**, Belize underscored the fact that whilst the death penalty remains a part of the laws, it has not used the death penalty for more than 35 years now.

In the conclusive remarks, Ms Avila reiterated commitments to advance the recommendations supported and to keep under review the recommendations noted. Belize commits to maintaining our engagement with all the multilateral human rights mechanisms.

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

Nepal, Russian Federation, Trinidad and Tobago, Viet Nam, Algeria, Bahamas, Barbados, Cameroon, Chile, China, Cuba, Gambia, Jamaica, Maldives

NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (2):

Center for Global Nonkilling, Advocates for Human Rights.

International Organization: UNHCR.

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

CHAD

Mr. Abderahim Bireme Hamid, Minister of State, Minister of Justice and Human Rights, and Keeper of the Seals, took the floor to address the Human Rights Council. He informed that **out of 342 recommendations, made to the Government of the Republic of Chad, 334 were accepted and 8 others noted.**

He affirmed that a series of activities will be planned and executed in collaboration with traditional partners for the purposes of a broad popularization of the accepted recommendations, so that all state administrative and customary entities, Civil Society Organizations, and Associations of Human Rights can take ownership of the said recommendations. Then, as part of the implementation, advocacy will be made to these partners for their necessary support.

Concerning the recommendations noted, it concerns strict compliance with the legislation in force in the Republic of Chad.

He stressed that the Country is currently facing countless challenges, the most urgent of which are insecurity, climate change and poverty. Despite countless efforts by the government, these challenges persist. Today, the drying up of Lake Chad leads to continued degradation of the ecosystem with a direct impact on the lives of the population and other beings.

On the political level, he affirmed that after three years of transition punctuated by important measures and good practices, in December 2023 the Government adopted a new constitution by referendum and in May 2024 elected a new President of the Republic.

In his conclusive remarks, Mr Hamid highlighted that Chad is one of the few countries where a law on the protection of refugees and IDPs has been adopted in Africa. He further clarified that the country hosts over a million Sudanese refugees, and despite that, the head of state has given very clear instructions concerning leaving the border.

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

Kuwait, Lesotho, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa.

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

Center for Global Nonkilling, International Services for Human Rights, Reformat, Centre du Commerce International pour le Développement, Interfaith International, Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme, AIDL.

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

CONGO

Mr. Aimé Ange Wilfrid Bininga, Keeper of the Seals, Minister of Justice, Human Rights and the Promotion of Indigenous Peoples, delivered the opening remark during the UPR Adoption session at the 56th Sessions of the Human Rights Council. **Out of 244 recommendations received, the Republic of Congo accepted 232 and noted 12.**

He shared the country's position regarding recommendations accepted and noted. Considering the recommendations on establishing a **secure and favorable environment for the peaceful exercise** by civil society organizations of their activities, the Republic of Congo, members of non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations for the defense of human rights are well established and carry out their promotion and promotion activities normally and in complete freedom, without pressure or intimidation. They face neither reprisals nor harassment of any kind from government authorities. Considering recommendations on **freedom of the press and the safety of journalists and media professionals**, he underlined constitutional provisions and codes that protect such rights. Similar clarification was provided concerning recommendations on the eradication of **female genital mutilation and forced and early marriage**. Although there are no regulations regarding early marriages, majors and civil status officers in the Republic of Congo do not celebrate or sanction the marriages of minor girls. Regarding recommendations on discrimination or the criminalization of individuals' sexual orientations, Congo affirmed that the Constitution recognizes the equality of all citizens before the law. There are no legislative or regulatory provisions that discriminate against people because of their sexual orientation. **LGBT** people are considered in the same way as all other citizens and regularly participate in all sex education activities, in the development of the national strategic plan for the fight against HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Finally, Congo would continue to strengthen its cooperation with **treaty bodies** and work closely with its various partners to increase its capacities for promoting and protecting human rights. It would continue these efforts to respect human rights through the repression of acts condemned by its penal code and raising awareness of human rights, particularly for law enforcement officers. All human rights violations during conflicts are considered crimes.

Considering **respect and promotion of women's rights** a key concern of public policies; Congo affirmed that the Constitution enshrines gender parity. The representation of women in decision-making spheres has been improved in recent years, and the law on parity is in the process of adoption. The Mouebari law (2022), aimed at combatting violence against women in the Republic of Congo, is very restrictive. To continue to address issues relating to **children's rights**, the Republic of Congo informed the creation of a Child Rights Observatory to receive, instruct, and process all situations related to child protection.

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

Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam.

NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (8):

VIDES International, COC Netherlands, International Services for Human Rights, ????, Center for Global Nonkilling, Reformat, CECIT, Interfaith International, RADO.

International Organization: UN-Habitat.

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

MALTA

H.E. Christopher Grima, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Malta to the UN Geneva affirmed that out of 232 recommendations, Malta accepted or partially accepted 188 and 44 noted. This means 81% of the recommendations made during the session.

Considering the number of recommendations made in relation to **health issues**, Malta clarified that multiple and various forms of contraceptive methods have been available to everyone for many decades, accessible throughout the islands at pharmacies and/or convenience stores and supermarkets. **Abortion** remains contrary to current legislation. It regretted that some recommendations seemed to conflate the provision of abortion services.

Achievements on **gender equality, gender identity, and sexual orientation**, may be noted in the Country. Moreover, Malta is the first United Nations Member State to legislate decisively on the specific issue of **intersex children**. The safety of journalists remains a vitally important principle in every democratic society. A new legislation has been presented and significant progress in the investigations has been registered.

Additionally, **migration** remains a significant challenge for Malta and the Mediterranean region. It clarified its policies relating to migration. Similarly, Malta clarified its position concerning recommendations on **detention**. No detention order is issued arbitrarily but only following an individual assessment and is used as a last resort, after having established that other less coercive alternative measures cannot be applied effectively.

In conclusion, Mr Grima reported that its citizens are the rights holders, and the government must ensure that every effort is made to protect their rights. Malta remains fully committed to implementing its human rights obligations, and to continue strengthening its national legislation and structures to achieve this aim.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (16 country delegations):

Venezuela, Viet Nam, Albania, Algeria, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Gambia, India, Iran, Kuwait, LAO PDR.

NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (8):

Alliance Defence Freedom, Humanists International, Centre du Commerce International pour le Développement, Interfaith International, Ocapros International.

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