

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 57th SESSION

Universal Periodic Review Outcomes

27 September- 01 October 2024

North Macedonia

Ms Tanja Dinevska, Deputy Director for Multilateral Affairs, addressed the Council regarding the recommendations received after the presentation of the country's national Report under the Fourth Cycle of the UPR, which took place on 2 May.

Out of 205 recommendations received, the majority of the recommendations were **accepted, 191, while 12 were noted, and 2 were partially accepted.**

Regarding the recommendations noted she provided additional information: the procedure for the **ratification** of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as well as for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure, are currently underway; North Macedonia is committed and will continue with efforts to strengthen its position in terms of **powers and financial independence** to ensure its unhindered and professional functioning and full operation; and the drafting of a new Law on Criminal Procedure and a Criminal Code are in their final stage.

On **violence against women**, the Program for the Reintegration of Victims of Violence has been finalized. Instruments, strategies, and regulations have been also finalized and adopted in order to **combat corruption and to straight independence of the judiciary.**

Concerning the recommendations on the conditions in remand prison facilities and the issue of prison overcrowding activities are underway to continue the Project for Reconstruction of Penitentiary Institutions. **To effectively combat and address human trafficking**, a National Commission for the Fight against Human Trafficking was established and the National Strategy for Combating Human Trafficking 2021-2025, the fifth strategy in this area, was adopted and is being fully implemented.

In conclusion, North Macedonia is committed to the protection, respect, and advancement of fundamental human rights and freedoms. Its actions at the national level are directed towards achieving the highest international standards for their protection, in accordance with the numerous international human rights treaty bodies to which it has acceded, and it consistently implements and will continue to implement its provisions. The recommendations accepted will be aimed at actions to build a more prosperous and inclusive society, strengthening human rights.

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

Maldives, Nepal, Oman, Russian Federation, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Albania, Algeria, China, Cuba, India.

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

Advocates for Human Rights, ILGA World.

International organizations: UNHCR, UNFPA.

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

Viet Nam

H.E. Do Hung Viet, Deputy Foreign Minister and head of the Viet Nam Delegation, informed the Council about the super typhoon a few weeks ago. The Government was quick to react, and swiftly implemented robust and coordinated measures. The priority was to save lives and ensure the safety of the people. A comprehensive recovery plan has been enacted, with a focus on protecting vulnerable groups and supporting businesses.

Viet Nam received 320 recommendations, it accepted 271 recommendations, 253 in full and 18 in part.

The Government **accepted all recommendations** that were in line with priorities and plans and, naturally, compatible with Viet Nam's Constitution and laws, and feasible within our available resources and capabilities. It **cannot accept recommendations or parts of recommendations** that were not feasible within practical timeframes, including recommendations to amend existing laws or to accede to additional international human rights instruments, or that misrepresented the situation in Viet Nam and were based on inaccurate presumptions. In Viet Nam, no one is detained or punished for exercising their legitimate rights. One can only be detained for criminal offenses, and only after being found guilty by a court of law.

Further, he updated the Council on some key developments in the protection and promotion of human rights. In terms of the **legal framework**, since May, the Parliament, the National Assembly, has adopted several important laws and decisions. The spirit of innovation is high among the population and business community, thanks to supportive policies of the Government. In terms of **gender equality and women empowerment**, Viet Nam officially launched last month its first National Action Programme on Women, Peace, and Security. The Government is finalizing a comprehensive national report on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in anticipation of the 30-year review of this landmark Declaration next year.

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

Egypt, Eritrea, Gabon, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives.

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

Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Advocates for Human Rights, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, Human Rights Watch, CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Vietnam Peace and Development Foundation, Alliance Defending Freedom, Jubilee Campaign, World Peace Council.

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

Afghanistan

H.E. Mr. Nasir Ahmad Andisha, Ambassador Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations Office in Geneva, informed the Council that out of the 143 recommendations received, 215 enjoyed the support of Afghanistan and 21 were noted.

Afghanistan remains bound by its obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law. Following the military takeover, the entire human rights landscape of the country was drastically altered, which continues to affect almost every individual, family, and community across the country.

Recommendations calling for an immediate end to violations and abuses **are crucial to prevent worse**, including ceasing summary or extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests and detention, torture, ill-treatment and other inhuman, cruel, and degrading treatment, forced displacement, and collective punishment. However, the reality is clear - credible national investigations are not being carried out, and victims and survivors have no access to justice or remedies inside Afghanistan.

He, therefore, urged the international community to remain united in advancing victim- and survivor-centered justice that is responsive to gender and all individuals and communities in vulnerable situations through all available avenues, including - as recommended - the establishment of an independent investigative mechanism by the Human Rights Council and cooperation with the ICC - and also by ensuring the Draft Convention on Crimes Against Humanity moves forward; that gender apartheid is codified as an international crime; that a case can move forward at the International Court of Justice.

Recommendations calling for the restoration of the rule of law; establishing legislative frameworks; re-establishment of national institutions, including a credible and independent national human rights institution; reinstating programs; restoring equal access to education; integrating human rights into educational process to promote a culture of human rights; and taking all measures necessary to promote and protect the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities, and ethnic and religious communities, prohibit discrimination and prevent violence, violations and abuses against them, **among several others, are critical**. Recommendations advocating for the release of all individuals, including activists, human rights defenders, journalists and media workers, who have been arrested or arbitrarily detained for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly **must be implemented without any delay**. Recommendations to eliminate all forms of institutionalized discrimination and systematic oppression against women and girls and rescind all bans, discriminatory edicts and decrees issued by the Taliban de facto authorities, which curtail their rights and freedoms, including access to quality education and employment, as well as those of individuals belonging to ethnic, religious and other vulnerable communities, **must also be urgently implemented**.

Recommendations concerning the establishment of an inclusive and representative government that includes all genders, ethnic and religious groups, ensuring full, equal, and meaningful participation of women and youth in the decision-making, **are the first and indispensable step toward effectively overcoming the barriers to implementation and paving the way for a durable way forward**. Unless we are not looking into the establishment of an inclusive system and government in Afghanistan, the **implementation of other recommendations will be very difficult**.

In conclusion, he reported how the UPR process for the country has been one of the most difficult in history. It was not a progress report but, unfortunately, a regress report. It showed how some very hard-won work in the promotion and protection of Human Rights, which Afghanistan achieved, not only in the past 20 years but in the past 78 years since we became a member of the UN, **has been dismantled, and all the progress has been rapidly diminished to nothing**.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (7 country delegations):

Indonesia, Israel, Kuwait, Morocco, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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

Advocates for Human Rights, International Service for Human Rights, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, United Nations Watch, British Humanist Association, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Center for Global Nonkilling, Réseau de Formation et de Recherche sur les Migrations Africaines (REFORMAF), Shaanxi Patriotic Volunteer Association.

International organizations: UN-Habitat, UNICEF.

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

Cyprus

Mr. Giorgos Samouel, Counsellor Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus to the UNOG, informed the Council that out of **236 recommendations, the Government accepted 199 of these, representing 84% of the total number of recommendations received**. Many of the recommendations that have been accepted pertain to particularly challenging issues such as the rights of migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees, trafficking in persons, gender-based violence, and discrimination. The majority of these are already being implemented, while for the rest, internal consultations are underway, to progress with and optimize their implementation.

In particular, he affirmed that in June 2024, the Government established a **Deputy Ministry for Migration and International Protection**, to better address challenges affecting the rights of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, guaranteeing, inter alia, their access to healthcare, employment, and education. On **gender equality**, in July, the National Mechanism for the Rights of Women was established to increase the participation of women in public and political life. **In combatting gender-based violence**, Cyprus has ratified the Istanbul Convention, the principles and commitments of which we continue to uphold. **As to the rights of the child**, and particularly juvenile delinquency, in August the government established a framework regulating juvenile detention centers.

With regard to the **recommendations on trafficking in persons**, he reassured that the Government of Cyprus is focused on applying criminal justice measures aimed at preventing trafficking. On the rights of persons with disabilities, Cyprus acknowledges the necessity of providing persons with disabilities, including women and children, the means and opportunities they deserve for the promotion, protection and enjoyment of their human rights.

The National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights is finalized and will subsequently be submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval. The strategy is built on *three core pillars*: the protection and respect of human rights; the promotion of human rights in compliance with Cyprus' International and European obligations as well as raising awareness to foster a culture that is sensitive to the protection of human rights. It aims to strengthen the development and implementation of specific, horizontal, comprehensive yet targeted actions against phenomena of human rights violations.

Cyprus' Government took note of 37 recommendations that are not in a position to implement on legal or constitutional grounds or because they pertain to the consequences of the continued occupation and forced division of Cyprus. In particular, concerning the signing and ratification of the **Conventions relating to Statelessness**, where Cyprus has already applied legislation, and regarding the ratification of **the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families**, its ratification falls within the competence of the European Union.

In conclusion, he reaffirmed Cyprus' continuous and firm commitment to ensuring that the universal, indivisible and mutually reinforcing nature of human rights and fundamental freedoms is afforded the highest possible protection. We all have an obligation to safeguard the rights of our citizens not only by improving the functioning of our national human rights protection systems, but also by providing them with the tools that will enable them to live a more equal and dignified life. Within this framework, we consider the UPR process not only as a unique platform that encourages dialogue, but also as indispensable if we are committed to improving the effectiveness of our national human rights policies.

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

Bahamas, Botswana, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, China, Cuba, Egypt, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Greece, Iran, India, Maldives.

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

Advocates for Human Rights, Center for Global Nonkilling, Conscience and Peace Tax International (CPTI) ILGA World, World Jewish Congress.

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

Chile

H.E. Mrs. Claudia Fuentes, Ambassador, and permanent representative of Chile to the United Nations office in Geneva, addressed the Council regarding the fourth cycle of the UPR. She informed the Council about the progress, advances, and policies adopted since the previous review. **Out of 329 recommendations, Chile decided to accept 324 recommendations, which constitute 98.5 % of the total; while it has decided to take note of 4 recommendations. There is one recommendation that has been partially accepted and partially taken note of.**

She began by stressing the areas of particular interest to Chile, including gender equality and the eradication of violence against women, access to safe abortion; the need to advance truth, justice, reparation, and guarantees of non-repetition; and the protection of children and the rights of Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples. The latter are sensitive issues to which the State made a firm commitment.

Further, she mentioned the **four recommendations that the country took note**. They are related to the ratification of **Convention No. 97 of the International Labour Organization, the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, the prevention of the application of the Anti-Terrorist Law against Indigenous land rights activists and to address the root causes underlying the conflict between the State and indigenous groups, the withdraw of all reservations and declarations made with respect to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol.**

In the conclusive remarks, the Ambassador referred to the voluntary commitment made during the last Review, consisting of establishing a national mechanism to monitor the effective implementation of human rights recommendations with the participation of the National Institute of Human Rights. In doing so, Chile incorporates the recommendations received by States and international human rights mechanisms, no longer as a mere declaration of intent, but as an institutional and permanent commitment, which must be implemented independently of the government in power.

The country reiterates its commitment to continue promoting multilateral spaces for the promotion and protection of human rights and the strengthening of our democracies and the rule of law.

She commended the role of civil society organizations that have been pushing the boundaries of what is possible in the pursuit of their rights. In Chile, the women who fought to find their loved ones during the civil-military dictatorship and who continue to demand justice today; in democracy, human rights defenders, in their most varied categories: children; indigenous peoples; those deprived of liberty; those with disabilities; the elderly; women; those of diversity; or those caring for the environment.

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

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia, Algeria, Armenia, Bahamas, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba.

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

International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims, World Jewish Congress, Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII, ILGA World, Maloca Internationale

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

Yemen

Mr. Ahmed Omar Mohammed Arman, Minister of Legal Affairs and Human Rights, commenced by saying that the Government of Yemen will work on making achievements in the field of human rights despite the challenges faced due to the Houthi coup in September 2014 and the resulting repercussions on all levels. The government gives priority to human rights now and when achieving normalization after the coup.

Through the review process, **Yemen received 256 recommendations as per the report of the working group on the UPR**. The government immediately accepted 179. It also accepted 22 recommendations of the 77 it later reviewed in accordance with the government's obligations and the resources available. **The total number of recommendations accepted was 201.**

He reiterated that the government focuses on dealing with immediate priorities and challenges starting with putting an end to the coup achieving peace and providing basic needs for the citizens, fuel, electricity, food staff, education, health, et cetera, to restore the social fabric that was torn apart by the Houthi coup and to deal with the needs of IDPs, refugees, and illegal migrants.

Considering all of these challenges, the government of Yemen needs support and assistance from all states and international organizations as well as relief and human rights organizations to allow us to abide by our human rights obligations.

The government of Yemen has always called for achieving peace in Yemen to achieve stability and a normal life for our citizens. It continues to make all efforts to find a political solution.

In his conclusive remarks, Mr Arman, quickly reminded that the country is going through a war. Therefore, calling upon us to commit to all these recommendations is difficult. Those who block humanitarian assistance are Houthi, the Iran-backed Houthi militias.

The government is exerting tremendous efforts to address the situation under the limited resources that we are facing, particularly while the Houthis have targeted the oil tankers and the oil platforms. The government is also exerting a lot of effort to overcome the situation. However, the negative position of the United Nations is aggravating the crisis when it comes to dealing with the Yemeni file. Many of the recommendations and demands cannot be responded to and cannot be realized under the current situation and the war in the region in general.

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

Bahrain, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Maldives, Oman, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Algeria, China.

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

Advocates for Human Rights, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Defence for Children International, Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR) Limited, International Service for Human Rights, Iraqi Development Organization, Jubilee Campaign, partners for transparency, United Nations Watch, World Evangelical Alliance.

International organizations: UNFPA, UN-Habitat.

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

Slovakia

Mr. Dusan Matulay, Permanent Representative of Slovakia, reiterated the country's firm commitment to the Universal Periodic Review, and to protect and promote human rights internally but also internationally as multilateralism and respect for the international law are the cornerstones of Slovak sovereign foreign policy. **He informed the Council that out of 242 recommendations, the Government supported fully 192 recommendations and several others partially.** Some of them are already in the process of their implementation or they are intended to be addressed by the existing or future strategies and programmes.

After careful consideration, Slovakia decided to **note 40 recommendations and to partially support 10 others.** Concerning the partially supported recommendations, it should be noted that these are supported in principle. This means that the Slovak Government supports the idea and reasoning behind it; it is not, however, in a position to accept them fully.

He used the opportunity to explain why some recommendations did not enjoy the country's support. It did not support recommendations that referred to specific human rights and freedoms which in our view are sufficiently protected in Slovakia through legal or constitutional provisions as well as where there are no immediate plans or necessity to amend or modify already existing national legislation. Additionally, and on limited occasions, there are also legal or constitutional obstacles preventing my government from fully implementing some recommendations.

Some recommendations that did not enjoy support concerned signing or ratifying certain conventions, although the government has no immediate plans to accede to these international treaties, we remain committed to the protection of the rights of all persons under the international obligations. Concerning the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention, Slovakia is in the process of transposition the Directive of the European Parliament and the Council on combating **violence against women and domestic violence** into national law. With regard to **access to safe abortion**, Slovak legislation allows for artificial termination of pregnancy up to the 12th week of pregnancy for any reason. Even after that period, abortion is still possible, however, under certain conditions when the life of the pregnant woman is under threat. These conditions were considered and established by the ruling of the Constitutional Court of Slovakia. Concerning the **elimination of all forms of segregation in education**, Slovakia consistently applies the provisions of the UNESCO Convention Against Discrimination in Education and thoroughly provides legislative and administrative measures to prevent and eliminate segregation in schools. There is no segregation in education based on gender. Regarding the topic of **redress and compensation to Roma women** who were subject to **forced sterilization** in the past. As already mentioned during the review in May, these efforts have not been fully materialized.

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

Maldives, Morocco, Nepal, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zimbabwe, Albania, Algeria, China, Cuba, India.

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

World Jewish Congress, Humanists International.

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

New Zealand

Mr. Nathan John Glassey, Deputy Permanent Representative, reported that the Member States made **259 recommendations, highlighting areas where more work could be done. The Government fully supported 168, supported in part 12 recommendations, and noted 79.** The recommendations received spanned a wide range of human rights. Key themes included criminal justice, counterterrorism, human trafficking, forced labor, the right to education, the rights of women, and indigenous rights. All of these are areas where the Government is actively taking steps to address ongoing challenges and remain committed to doing more. Many of these were priority areas identified in our National Report for this UPR.

Further, he stressed some of New Zealand's domestic human rights priority areas. The priority area is **family violence and sexual violence**. This continues to be of concern in New Zealand and has a wide range of implications for human rights. These issues have detrimental impacts on victims directly, and beyond, families, communities, and society, which can affect people's wellbeing and sense of safety. New Zealand is determined to address and reduce family violence and sexual violence including through legislative changes and policy initiatives. Reducing offending, and ensuring there are significant consequences for serious offending, is key to reducing victimisation and prioritising victims in the justice system [accepted all recommendations in relation to sexual and gender-based violence].

New Zealand acknowledges the challenges that exist within the **criminal justice system**. The Government supported recommendations related to improving outcomes across the justice sector, reducing the number of victims, improving outcomes for Māori in the criminal justice system, conducting a review of legal aid settings, and continuing to improve conditions in detention facilities and across the prison network.

New Zealand also supported all 16 recommendations related to **child and youth wellbeing, child poverty, and abuse in state care**. The Government is committed to reducing child poverty under the *Child Poverty Reduction Act*. New Zealand has undertaken substantial work to improve **education, health, and protection** outcomes for Māori and Pacific children, who experience higher rates of inequities. Concerning **Indigenous Peoples' issues**, New Zealand supported recommendations relating to reducing disparities for Māori and other ethnic minorities. It supported recommendations relating to ensuring Māori are effectively involved in decision-making on issues that affect them

In terms of recommendations noted, these were related to the ratification or accession to international instruments, the minimum criminal age of responsibility, a business and human rights action plan, the passage of pay transparency legislation, and the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. New Zealand does accept such recommendations because they depend on future decision-making according to constitutional processes.

In the conclusive remarks, he reaffirmed the New Zealand Government's continuing commitment to the fundamental importance of universal human rights and to the international system, including the important work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, which seeks to uphold these rights the world over. **New Zealand is determined to face our challenges, recognizing that there is much more work to do.**

The New Zealand Human Rights Commission reported that over the past year, extensive law and policy changes accompanied by austerity measures by our government have meant that we are falling behind. The rights of Maori, and Indigenous people are extremely vulnerable in the absence of constitutional protection. Children and young people, disabled people, and those living in poverty are experiencing the brunt of austerity measures across welfare and social services, impacting their ability to live a life of dignity. Rainbow communities, Pacific, ethnic minority and migrant communities, women, and some faith communities continue to face discrimination and structural barriers to equity, equality, and social inclusion.

It commended the establishment of the national mechanism and commitment to developing a national action plan against racism, encouraging the Government to address the impacts of institutional racism, especially anti-Maori racism.

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

Cameroon, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ghana, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Nepal, Oman, Philippines, Russian Federation, Samoa.

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

Alliance Defending Freedom, Association of Iranian Jurists Defending Human Rights, World Jewish Congress, Edmund Rice International Limited, Humanists International.

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

Comoros

H.E. Mr. Sultan Shanzur Ambassador, permanent representative of the Union of Comoros to the United Nations office in Geneva to introduce the Delegation, and Mr. Seydemar Homadi, Minister of Justice, responsible for human rights, head of Delegation, informed the Council that the Government received 237 recommendations. These were the subject of debates within society, but also within a multi-sectoral Commission involving representatives of the State, Parliament and civil society, within the framework of a well-defined mandate and agenda.

Thus, out of the 237 recommendations received, 194 were accepted and 43 were noted. Some of the noted recommendations are likely to be fully or partially accepted, or even implemented at a later date, once the material or institutional obstacles to their immediate acceptance have been overcome. Other Recommendations noted are deemed inadmissible because they are judged to be contrary to the values, principles, and even the very foundations of Comorian society, of which they ensure stability, coherence, and resilience. These types of Recommendations refer to two categories of themes, on the one hand, those relating to the death penalty and on the other hand, those concerning sexual relations between persons of the same sex.

The religious, political, and cultural impact of such a debate would be such that other more urgent and priority issues affecting other areas of human rights would simply be overlooked and forgotten.

In the conclusive remarks, the Ambassador recalled the government's commitment to its human rights obligations making every effort fully to implement the recommendations received despite the many difficulties mentioned during the presentation. There are two types of difficulties, institutional and functional, with a lack of an efficient operational framework and gaps and a lack of national human resources and material difficulties with the restricted resources allocated to our department because of the limited state budget.

Comoros, therefore, needs assistance, expertise, and material and financial support from all bilateral and multilateral partners in order to organize the institutional framework and strengthen and optimize national skills in the field of human rights.

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

Zambia, Algeria, Bahamas, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon.

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

Centre du Commerce International pour le Développement, Center for Global Nonkilling, Africa Culture Internationale, Rencontre Africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme.

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

Dominican Republic

Mr. Héctor Virgilio Alcántara, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic, informed the Council that 87 delegations actively participated in this process, and **formulated a total of 256 recommendations**. These recommendations represent the global commitment to the continuous improvement of human rights and have been received with the highest consideration by our country.

The Dominican Republic has accepted 182 of the recommendations received, representing 71% of the total. It took note of 74 recommendations, equivalent to 29%, intending to further assess their viability in the future.

To carry out the analysis and decision on the recommendations, the Government implemented an inclusive and reflective national consultation process, led by the Inter-Institutional Commission on Human Rights, the national mechanism for monitoring and implementing international commitments in this area. It emphasized that the Dominican Constitution has a set of fundamental guarantees that exceeds what is established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and that the international standards ratified in this matter are directly applicable in our courts and state bodies.

The Government took note of some recommendations suggesting legislative reforms, the importance of which we recognize. However, the nature of the bicameral system and the separation of powers make it difficult to establish a time frame for their adoption.

In his conclusive remarks, he affirmed that concerning the **accession and ratification of international treaties**, the country is not yet in a position to accede to certain treaties due to the need to adapt our regulations and institutional capacity; the government is working on the **expansion of prisons and on finding solutions to improve the conditions of persons deprived of liberty**, especially in terms of reducing overcrowding. The Dominican Constitution guarantees the **right to equality and prohibits any form of discrimination**. In this regard, it is strengthening laws and administrative mechanisms to better protect vulnerable groups, including LGBTIQ+ people. Preventing discrimination is a priority in the human rights framework. All citizens, regardless of their identity or preference, enjoy equal rights.

He highlighted that access to healthcare for migrants has been a priority for the system, as well as valued the importance of maintaining an orderly and safe migration process, both for migrants and for the countries involved, reviewing protocols for action in migration interdictions and taking measures to ensure that the rights of migrants, especially pregnant women, are fully respected.

He categorically rejected the idea that a phenomenon of statelessness exists in the country. The legal system is clear and consistent regarding the right to nationality.

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

Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Maldives, Morocco, Nepal, Philippines, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia.

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

Center for Global Nonkilling, Centre du Commerce International pour le Développement, Amnesty International, ILGA World, Rencontre Africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme.

International organizations: UN Women, UNFPA, UN-Habitat.

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

Vanuatu

H.E Sumbue Antas, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Vanuatu at the Human Rights Council, started by saying that Vanuatu has continued to constructively cooperate with the Human Rights Council, its special procedures, and other UN human rights mechanisms. Also, Vanuatu is committed to working firmly on the systematic protection and promotion of the fundamental values of democracy, the rule of law, and human rights in the country. That is how we can be credible and responsible to our citizens and reliable in cooperation with others.

Vanuatu received 209 recommendations from 67 Member states that participated in the review. **Out of 209 recommendations, Vanuatu accepted 169 recommendations, and 40 were noted for further consideration.**

The decision to accept or take note of the recommendations was made by considering whether measures in this regard have already been taken or implemented or whether they can be carried out in clear time frames. Some recommendations, not relevant to the context or already covered by a sound normative and policy framework in force, were not accepted.

One of the important recurring recommendations in the recent cycle of URP is the recommendation for the **establishment of a National Human Rights Institution in Vanuatu (NHRI)**. The ambassador announced that initial steps have been taken, with the support of some of our development partners and non-governmental organizations - to develop the concept note and design the structure of this institution. Vanuatu is strengthening the system of **protection and promotion of civil and political rights**, which remains a top priority, with special emphasis on freedom of expression, association, and assembly, which aligns with the constitution. For more effective **implementation of anti-corruption legislation and policies**, measures will be taken to ensure an all-encompassing fight against corruption in institutions, organized crime, and high-level corruption. The significant efforts will be further invested in **eradicating gender-based violence**, by advocating and upholding the principle of "zero tolerance" towards violence against women and domestic violence.

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

Armenia, Bahamas, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Malawi, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Algeria, Cuba, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines.

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

Center for Global Nonkilling, Franciscans International.

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

Eritrea

Mr. Habtom Zerai Ghirmai, Permanent Representative of Eritrea, reported to the Council that out of **293 recommendations received, Eritrea has decided to fully accept 126 recommendations whereby it has taken note of 160 others. Five recommendations were rejected.**

He underscored that the decisions encapsulate our strong desire to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights. The societal norms, national values, and domestic laws were given due consideration. Though these norms and values take credence, the decision also took consonance with Eritrea's obligations under applicable international human rights treaties.

He provided clarification on the remaining five recommendations which were rejected based on factual mistakes and irrelevance to the national context. These recommendations call for changes to existing laws, regulations, and policies within impractical timeframes or infringe on matters that Eritrea is not in a position to consider. **Eritrea rejected outright attempts to impose concepts and ideas that contradict the core principles outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.** Additionally, he emphasized that some of the rejected recommendations fail outside the scope of the UPR framework. They did not adhere to the UPR's essential requirements of impartiality, transparency, nonconfrontational and nonpoliticized approach.

In conclusion, he reiterated the government of **Eritrea's commitment to promoting and protecting the human rights of all persons in the country.** This commitment is deeply ingrained in our national ethos, epitomized by the development strategy we seek to ensure the dignity, security, and prosperity of every citizen. Eritrea has always adhered to a people-oriented approach and has made significant strides toward achieving social equity.

In accordance with the core policy of social justice and in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the government of Eritrea is dedicated to maintaining this policy, which includes but is not limited to the provision of a full cycle of free education, free healthcare, and other social services. These efforts have significant challenges, particularly due to the **imposition of unilateral coercive measures** that have been imposed on Eritrea by certain states. These measures not only undermine national sovereignty but also create formidable barriers to the effective implementation of human rights policies and development programmes.

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

Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen.

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

World Evangelical Alliance, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, East and Horn of Africa HR Defenders Project, Advocates for Human Rights, Center for Global Nonkilling, United Nations Watch, Elizka Relief Foundation, Human Rights Watch, Centre du Commerce International pour le Développement, Interfaith International.

International organizations: UNFPA, UN-Habitat.

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

Uruguay

Mr. Carlos Mata Prates, Permanent Representative of Uruguay, stressed that respect, guarantees, and the promotion of human rights is a public policy of the State in Uruguay, accepted and shared by the entire political system of the country. After carefully examining them, **out of a total of 274, Uruguay considered 260 and took due note of 14**. This is because their implementation would constitute a step backward in rights already enshrined, protected, and guaranteed by the Uruguayan State, to the detriment of the principles of progressiveness and non-regression of International Human Rights Law, of which Uruguay has been a permanent defender.

Uruguay has maintained as a regular practice the acceptance of the recommendations received, as an unequivocal sign of its constructive and dialoguing spirit, but mainly as a demonstration of the importance that the country assigns both to guarantees as well as to the progressive exercise of human rights.

In his conclusive remarks, Mr. Prates reiterated that Uruguay is a State of Law with consolidated institutions, a separation of powers inherent to the State of Law that prides itself on being such, which acts as a guarantor of impartiality and balance, and a solid democracy, with the participation of political parties and a reliable and transparent electoral system. He highlighted the approval of the First National Human Rights Plan 2023-2027, which is the result of the continuous, progressive, and inclusive action of a broad base for its preparation.

Uruguay will continue to work to ensure that all people are able to benefit from the highest standards in the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms through the implementation, follow-up, and monitoring of policies and actions aimed at guaranteeing the promotion, protection, and accountability in matters of human rights.

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

Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Djibouti, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Maldives, Nepal, Oman, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation

NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (3):

Edmund Rice International Limited, World Jewish Congress, Amnesty International.

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

Cambodia

H.E. Mr. Keo Sothie, Vice President of the Cambodian Human Rights Committee highlighted that Cambodia is always committed to improving the welfare of our people in a manner that is practical and reflects our national context. Democracy and human rights values are country-specific and Cambodia applies these values with consideration for its history, culture, and development stage, in order to achieve tangible outcomes. As a result of its history, sustainable peace for continued development and achieving fundamental human rights that every person is entitled to are Cambodia's utmost priorities.

Cambodia supported 232 out of the 275 recommendations received.

Cambodia cannot support those recommendations that are politicized, confrontational, vague, erroneous, inaccurate, or based on unfounded assumptions. Regarding certain other recommendations that have been noted, Cambodia already has various mechanisms, both legal and institutional frameworks, that have been put in place to strengthen practices that ensure the effective promotion and protection of human rights.

Cambodia's context, history, and culture necessitate a practical approach to human rights obligations with the goal of sustainable peace for continued development and promotion and protection of the welfare of our people. With this being said, the Country will also continue to take stock of all constructive feedback and review and improve to achieve this goal.

In his conclusive remarks, Mr Sothie affirmed that Cambodia remains committed to the promotion and protection of human rights. Cambodia marches forward to reduce poverty, vulnerability, and inequality while promoting human development and economic growth to ensure our society becomes more inclusive, cohesive, and resilient.

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

Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Ghana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia.

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

Article 19 - International Centre Against Censorship, Action Canada for Population and Development, ILGA World, FIAN International e.V., Human Rights Watch, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Amnesty International.

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