



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Adoption of UPR Outcomes

#HRC58 • 25 March 2025

Brunei Darussalam



STATE UNDER REVIEW

The delegation of **Brunei Darussalam** expresses its deepest gratitude to the UPR Secretariat and to Malawi, Honduras and Kyrgyzstan for serving as the troika for Brunei during this review cycle. Brunei Darussalam continues to support and appreciate this platform as a constructive state-driven process for showcasing Brunei's advancements in promoting and protecting human rights, as well as for sharing its unique national experiences and circumstances.

Brunei reiterates its commitment to remaining a responsible member of the international community and **upholding its obligations** under various international conventions, including those concerning the rights of persons with disabilities, the elimination of discrimination against women and the rights of the child. Through its national report and engagement during the UPR cycle, Brunei demonstrated its progress in the enhancement of human rights and expressed its readiness to continue collaboration with regional and international partners in order to learn and adopt best practises compatible with the way of life, beliefs and culture of its people, thereby preserving the continued enjoyment of peace, stability and harmony of the country.

In this vein, **extensive and intensive consultations** were held on all of the **248 recommendations received** during this review with all relevant implementing agencies in order to undertake a holistic and comprehensive approach. After careful consideration of the recommendations and taking into account the guidelines as set out by the OHCHR, Brunei Darussalam is pleased to announce that **159 recommendations were supported**. Seven recommendations were supported in part as stipulated in the addendum to the report as Brunei Darussalam does not agree with part of the recommendation, does not agree with the specific wording used in the recommendations or is supportive of the principles of the recommendations but could not fully accomplish.



For example, there are initiatives that Brunei Darussalam is currently implementing which however are not fully in line with the stated timeline in the recommendations. Further, Brunei Darussalam [notes 82 recommendations](#) on reasons similar as stated earlier. In addition, such recommendations were either predicated on inaccurate assumptions, erroneous information or may not be appropriate in our national context. The detailed written explanations on our position on the recommendations can be found in the document A/HRC/58/12/Addendum 1 and its corrigendum A/HRC/58/12/addenda-1-corrigendum 1. To conclude, Brunei conveys its gratitude to the Member States who participated in its review and hopes to see a successful outcome.

UNHRC MEMBER AND OBSERVERS STATES

Venezuela takes note of their cooperation with the UPR mechanism. It believes that it is voluntary mechanisms, not imposed ones, that yield the best results for human rights. Venezuela welcomes the acceptance of three recommendations it addressed during the interactive dialogue with respect to work among national institutions to guarantee the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights, strengthening the national system for social assistance, and the implementation of national programmes. Venezuela urges the State to continue with the initiatives set out in the report, as well as with the new strategies and plans on the basis of recommendations accepted during this cycle of the UPR. It wishes success in the implementation and recommends the adoption of the outcome report.

Viet Nam commends Brunei's constructive engagement with the UPR process and expresses its appreciation to Brunei for accepting all three recommendations made by Vietnam in terms of more inclusive education for children with special needs, strengthened legislative framework to address environmental challenges including climate change and gender equality and empowerment of women. It encourages Brunei to continue to advance human rights domestically as part of Brunei's National Vision 2035, meeting the nation's aspirations to ensure that the people of the country are educated, highly skilled and accomplished, enjoy high quality of life and a nation having an economy that is dynamic and sustainable in 2035. To conclude, Vietnam recommends the adoption of the UPR outcome of Brunei by consensus and wishes the government every success in implementing the accepted recommendations.

Yemen appreciates and commends the commitment of Brunei and its openness and cooperation with the international human rights mechanism. Yemen further praises its continued efforts to promote and protect human rights and achieve sustainable development according to Brunei's National Vision 2035. Yemen expresses its appreciation for the measures taken by Brunei in the fields of healthcare, education and social development and their efforts to promote the participation of women and youth in society. It further praises its efforts in fighting climate change and its active role in enshrining regional and international peace and security. Yemen fully supports Brunei's efforts in promoting and protecting human rights and expresses its continued aspiration for a more sustainable future and a fair one for all peoples.

Algeria expresses its sincere appreciation to the delegation for the additional information provided and commends Brunei Darussalam for its ongoing efforts to promote and protect human rights. It acknowledges with gratitude that the recommendations put forward by Algeria as to continuing ongoing efforts regarding the protection and promotion of the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities as well as the efforts aimed at improving healthcare in



general and mental health in particular have been supported. In conclusion, Algeria recommends the adoption of the outcome report and wishes the country every success in implementing the accepted recommendations.

Azerbaijan congratulates Brunei on the successful review and appreciates the constructive engagement of the Government of Brunei in its fourth UPR cycle. Azerbaijan commends the Brunei' commitment to the UPR and the efforts to further protect human rights. It welcomes Brunei's support for the recommendations made by Azerbaijan; namely to continue engagement with relevant stakeholders, including those in the implementation of the Brunei National Vision 2035; to remain committed to the concerted efforts to address climate change; and to consider plans and policies for an all-inclusive approach to enhance the independence of persons with disabilities. In conclusion, it expresses its support for the adoption of the outcome report.

Bahrain commends that Brunei has accepted recommendations it offered through a positive engagement and has sought to protect and promote human rights. Bahrain commends the efforts undertaken by Brunei Darussalam to promote human rights and education, the rights of women and children, and to combat trafficking in persons. All of these areas there is considerable progress, which demonstrates the importance attached by the Sultanate to the protection of human rights and its determination to build a prosperous future for all. As Brunei has accepted 159 recommendations, Bahrain recommends the adoption of the outcome report, while wishing Brunei every success.

Belgium thanks Brunei for taking into account its recommendation on ratifying the UNCAT. However, Belgium regret that its three other recommendations were not accepted. The first relates to the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), two international instruments that Belgium believes are fundamental for the protection of human rights. It also regrets that Brunei has not accepted limitations on use of the death penalty to the most serious international crimes or limited its mandatory application. Belgium reaffirms its opposition to the death penalty in all circumstances, irrespective of the crime committed. Its abolition would contribute to greater human dignity and respect for human rights. Finally, Belgium underscores its commitment to the principle of non-discrimination, which is crucial for any inclusive and society-respectful human rights. Belgium laments that Brunei has not accepted to decriminalise homosexual relations between consenting adults. In a constructive spirit, Belgium invites Brunei to reconsider their position on these three points.

China commends Brunei's constructive participation in the fourth cycle of UPR and welcomes its efforts to implement its National Vision 2035, protect the rights of people with disabilities and the elderly, combat human trafficking and protect the public's right to health and right to education. China welcomes Brunei's initiatives on combating bullying and enhancing mental health during its Presidency of ASEAN. China commends Brunei's acceptance of China's recommendation on further improving people's living standards and wishes Brunei further success in its efforts of promoting and protecting human rights. China supports the adoption of the outcome report.

Cuba acknowledges the political will shown by Brunei to continue furthering the promotion and protection of human rights, of its population, as well as of its admirable efforts in implementing



the 2030 Agenda. Cuba is pleased that Brunei has accepted the three recommendations made by Cuba. In a spirit of cooperation and respect, Cuba urges Brunei to continue improving its water supply system to guarantee access to clean, safe, affordable water, especially for inhabitants in rural areas, and to strengthen the legislative framework to address environmental challenges, including when it comes to mitigation and adaptation to climate change. It wishes Brunei success in implementing the supported recommendations and supports for the adoption of the report.

Cyprus thanks the delegation of Brunei for the update on their progress since its review in November 2024 and commends Brunei for the number of supported recommendations. Cyprus is pleased to note that three of its recommendations on ensuring proper investigation, prosecution, and adequate sanctions in case of trafficking; on women's protection; on the elimination of violence against women; and on increasing and expanding technical cooperation and capacity-building to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights with UN assistance, have been supported. Cyprus recommends that Brunei considers ratifying the core human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party. Cyprus recommends adoption of the outcome report by consensus and wishes every success in the implementation.

Djibouti welcomes the delegation of Brunei and thanks it for the additional presentation highlighting efforts and commitments to the promotion and protection of human rights on this occasion of the adoption of this report. Djibouti congratulates Brunei for its acceptance of 159 recommendations out of 248 in this fourth UPR cycle and especially commends Brunei's acceptance of two recommendations made by Djibouti. Djibouti takes note of explanations provided by Brunei on the third recommendation it offered on the creation of an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles which it noted. Djibouti trusts that when the time comes, this recommendation will be considered and ultimately implemented. It wishes every success in implementing recommendations supported and recommends the adoption of the outcome report.

Egypt welcomes efforts undertaken by Brunei for the promotion and protection of human rights as part of the National Vision 2035 vision. It also welcomes Brunei's cooperation with various mechanisms of the UNHRC, including the UPR. Egypt welcomes the fact that Brunei has supported all recommendations made by Egypt. In conclusion, it wishes Brunei every success in the implementation of the recommendations supported.

India warmly welcomes the delegation of Brunei for the adoption of the report of the UPR Working Group on its fourth cycle of the UPR held on 8 November 2024. The review saw substantive participation with 86 delegations taking the floor and making a total of 248 recommendations. India appreciates the constructive engagement of the delegation of Brunei al-Din al-Salam during the entire review, which reflects their commitment to the UPR process. India appreciates that as many as 159 recommendations have been accepted, including supporting the three recommendations made by us. While recommending the adoption of the UPR report, India congratulates the delegation of Brunei on a successful review and wishes success in Brunei's efforts towards implementing the supported recommendations.

Indonesia commends Brunei for its participation and constructive engagement during its UPR process and welcomes Brunei's decision to support 159 of 248 recommendations that were received during its fourth UPR last November. These include Indonesia's recommendation in



relation to the ratification of the UNCAT and addressing the issue of domestic violence and protecting all of the victims. In this regard, it further supports Brunei to continue strengthening its efforts to fully protect human rights in its country, including the rights of migrant workers and their family members. To conclude, Indonesia recommends the adoption of Brunei's UPR report by consensus and wishes the Government of Brunei al-Din al-Salam every success in implementation of the supported recommendations.

Iran acknowledges Brunei's commitment to human rights and its efforts to implement the recommendations from the previous UPR cycle. Iran appreciate Brunei's support for the recommendations it offered and encourages it to continue its efforts to promote and protect human rights while considering its social and cultural context. Iran commends Brunei's initiatives, including the housing project and the review of the National Plan of Action on Poverty Eradication to enhance its efficiency. It wishes success in improving the human rights situation and encourages further efforts to strengthen existing mechanisms for poverty alleviation. Iran recommends the adoption of Brunei's report by consensus and extends its best wishes for the successful implementation of its recommendations.

Jordan commends Brunei's commitment with all human rights mechanisms and welcomes the efforts made when it comes to promoting and protecting human rights as well as in eliminating violence against women while prioritising the well-being of children. Jordan appreciates the fact that the Brunei Government has supported the recommendations Jordan made, including on promoting policy to protect the environment. In conclusion, it wishes every success to Brunei in implementing the recommendations and recommends the adoption of the outcome report.

Kuwait welcomes the efforts made by Brunei to promote human rights, especially as Brunei has renewed its commitment to respecting human rights on the basis of the United Nations mechanisms and relevant conventions, including the UNCAT. Kuwait welcomes the fact that Brunei has supported the majority of recommendations and commends its constructive active participation in the UPR process. In conclusion, it wishes every success to Brunei in implementing the recommendations supported and recommends the adoption of the report.

The **Lao PRD** congratulates Brunei on the successful review during the fourth UPR cycle and commends Brunei for its active participation in the work of the UNHRC, the UPR process and treaty bodies. The Lao PDR welcomes Brunei's active efforts towards the promotion and protection of human rights as well as the progress made in improving the rights to education, health and social welfare, including advancement of rights of women, children and persons with disabilities in order to ensure the effective implementation of Brunei's National Vision 2035. The Lao PDR appreciates Brunei for supporting the majority of recommendations received during the constructive dialogue including the two recommendations made by the Lao PDR and wishes Brunei success in implementing the supported recommendations. In conclusion, it recommends the adoption of the outcome report by consensus.

OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

The **British Humanist Association** supports Ireland's recommendation to abolish the use of the death penalty in cases of blasphemy and apostasy and to ensure the right to freedom of religion or belief is upheld. While being aware of the continuing de facto moratorium on the death penalty,



the Association remains deeply concerned that blasphemy and apostasy are capital crimes. This contradicts UNHRC resolution 36/17, which urges all states that have not yet abolished the death penalty to ensure it is not imposed for specific forms of conduct, including blasphemy or apostasy. Blasphemy is criminalised by Articles 220 and 221 of the Sharia Penal Code Order 2013. Non-Muslims found guilty of insulting or defaming the Prophet Muhammad may receive a death sentence, while Muslims thought to bring Islam into contempt may face a maximum three-year prison sentence. However, in 2014, the State Mufti of Brunei said that Muslims who made blasphemous statements or performed sacrilegious actions and had not repented could face the death penalty as well. Those disassociating themselves from Islam also face a criminal conviction of apostasy, an offence punishable by death. While Brunei's constitution states that all religions may be practised in peace and harmony, the government continues to prohibit religious groups perceived as deviant, such as the Ahmadiyya Community, the Baha'i faith and Jehovah's witnesses, among others. In some cases, non-Muslims feel pressured to convert to Islam in the workplace or within social groups and fear social retribution if they do not. The Association implores the Brunei Government to repeal the death penalty for blasphemy and apostasy and protect the right to freedom of religion or belief for all.

The **Centre for Global Non-Killing** stresses that life is the greatest treasure we are given. It regrets that Brunei has not noted the recommendation made by Armenia regarding a ratification of the Genocide Convention. It understands that priorities need to be set in ratification procedures, but the Centre would have preferred support for the recommendation even if ratification is delayed. The Centre also regrets that no state has recommended to Brunei the decriminalisation of suicides. Stigma can kill, absence of open suicide prevention programmes can kill, absence of easily accessible counsel and help can kill, and the fear of punishment aggravates the problem both for victims and helpers. Numerous countries listed in the Centre's submission have recently decriminalised suicides, with as a result, after an adaptation phase, a lowering of the suicide rates. Every life counts.

Humanists International thanks the Government of Brunei for its engagement with the UPR process and for its presentation. However, there are a number of important recommendations which have not been accepted that we would like to draw attention to. Firstly, Brunei's failure to accept recommendations on the decriminalisation of abortion is incredibly disappointing. Abortion is not a crime, but a human right that is protected under a variety of international instruments. Secondly, Brunei's decision not to accept the recommendations on its blasphemy laws contravenes international law. Just six months ago, the UN Secretary-General called for the repeal of blasphemy laws around the world, underscoring their incompatibility with international law. Thirdly, Brunei's noting of numerous recommendations related to the decriminalisation of same-sex relations is appalling, with stoning to death being the punishment in law and the de facto punishment being several years in prison. The rejection of these recommendations was not even substantively explained or expanded upon. The moratorium on the use of the death penalty is not enough. Such punishment remaining on the books, be it for blasphemy, same-sex relations or extramarital relations, violates international norms. These acts should not be illegal, let alone punishable by death. Underpinning these laws within Brunei is the Sharia Penal Code, the repeal of certain provisions of which was another noted recommendation in response to the Working Group's report. The right to freedom of religion or belief is a right which manifests within individuals and does not permit states to limit rights in the name of religion. Brunei cannot hide



behind national sovereignty while remaining a member of the international community. The NGO urges Brunei to bring its domestic laws in line with the international human rights law.

The **Advocates for Human Rights** and the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty welcome Brunei's acknowledgement during the interactive dialogue that it is abolitionist in practise and they applaud its commitment to consider ratifying the UNCAT. They concerned, however, that Brunei noted recommendations to adopt a formal moratorium on execution with a view to abolishing the death penalty. Under the Criminal Procedure Code, the death penalty is mandatory, subject to the Sultan's decision on whether authorities should carry out the sentence. Brunei's Sharia Penal Code prescribes a mandatory death penalty by stoning for offences that do not reach the most serious crime threshold, such as adultery, blasphemy, and consensual same-sex sexual conduct. It also authorises officials to amputate limbs as punishment for crimes such as theft and robbery in violation of the Prohibition against Torture. They call on Brunei to abolish the death penalty and ratify the second Optional Protocol (OP II) to the ICCPR and the UNCAT. In the meanwhile, they urge Brunei to immediately adopt a formal moratorium on executions, eliminate the mandatory death penalty in the Criminal Procedure Code and the Sharia penal code, commute all existing death sentences to terms of imprisonment, and issue a directive prohibiting judges from sentencing a person to death for blasphemy, adultery, or consensual same-sex sexual conduct between adults.

FACTS & FIGURES ON UPR OUTCOMES

248 Recommendations Received

159 Recommendations Supported

5 Recommendations Partially Supported

84 Recommendations Noted

FACTS & FIGURES ON PARTICIPATION

18 State Delegations

4 Non-Governmental Organizations