



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Adoption of UPR Outcomes

#HRC58 • 25 March 2025

Costa Rica



STATE UNDER REVIEW

The delegation of **Costa Rica** declares that, For a number of decades, Costa Rica has been building a model of respect and unswerving support to the codification of standards that guarantee dignity, well-being and the common good. It is based on that experience that we assume solemnly our international obligations, including when it comes to developing, disseminating and complying with human rights reports. Along those lines, my country would like to reiterate its commitment to the UPR.

Following a process of reflection and analysis of recommendations received, today Costa Rica formally concludes the fourth cycle of the UPR. Since its creation, its recommendations, technical assistance and international cooperation have fostered improvements in its practises in the field. At the same time, as soon as this meeting ends, the fifth cycle will begin. That's the spirit that Costa Rica has adopted. It is aware of the **ongoing endeavour**. When the delegation came to Geneva in November and today's adoption of the outcomes are formalities that cement a greater commitment, a commitment to make real improvements on the ground that have a positive impact on the enjoyment of human rights of the inhabitants of Costa Rica.

The UPR is a key mechanism for Costa Rica. The fourth cycle was an opportunity for internal reflections on what to do in terms of challenges, but also opportunities for improvement. The **Inter-Institutional Commission for Follow-up and Implementation** of International Human Rights Obligations, which has been in place for more than a decade, together with the standing entity for consultation from civil society, play a key role both in developing the national report as well as in adopting positions on the recommendations received. Each new cycle of the UPR has enabled Costa Rica to improve the processes and methodologies. Costa Rica is honoured to affirm that the fourth cycle marked **the broadest process so far of consolidating actions** within the national report. Costa Rica would like to thank once more all states who made constructive



recommendations during the presentation of our national report in November 2024, as well as to the Secretariat and the troika made up of Argentina, Qatar and Montenegro.

Before hearing from state delegations and delegations from civil society, Costa Rica reiterates its **national commitment to protecting all human rights** in all parts of the globe, consistent with the principles of universality, interdependence and indivisibility, freedom of expression and opinion, freedom of peaceful assembly and association, the human right to a clean, healthy, sustainable environment, combating the death penalty and combating all forms of torture, the human rights of women, adolescents and girls, conscientious objection to military service, to name but a few, struggles that Costa Rica has always championed, both inside and outside our country, because that is the only way that we can truly shape just, inclusive societies, with solidarity and with diversity as a strength, and always guided by a human rights-based approach.

UNHRC MEMBER AND OBSERVERS STATES

India warmly welcomes the delegation of Costa Rica for the adoption of the report of the UPR Working Group on its fourth cycle of the UPR. The review saw substantive participation with delegations making a total of 299 recommendations. India appreciates the constructive engagement of the delegation of Costa Rica during the entire review, which reflects their commitment to the UPR process. India appreciates that as many as 244 recommendations have been accepted by Costa Rica, including the four recommendations made by India. While recommending the adoption of their UPR report, India congratulates the delegation of Costa Rica on a successful review, and wish them success in their efforts towards implementing the accepted recommendations.

While Costa Rica's participation in the UPR mechanism is positively noted by **Iran**, serious concerns persist regarding the country's human rights record. Enhanced measures are crucial to protect Indigenous groups, people of African descent, and other minority groups from discrimination. Furthermore, in full respect for the rights of prisoners and detainees, it is imperative to guarantee adequate medical care, alleviate overcrowding, and ensure access to basic hygiene products in prisons. Iran urges Costa Ricans to take meaningful steps towards genuine cooperation with human rights mechanisms and expects tangible progress in implementing the recommendations accepted during the UPR.

Libya commends the fact that Costa Rica has agreed to a large number of the recommendations during the UPR. Libya recommends the adoption of the report, and wishes Costa Rica every success in implementing the recommendations.

The **Maldives** compliments Costa Rica's commitment to the UPR process and commends the Government of Costa Rica for accepting the majority of the recommendations, including two recommendations made by the Maldives during the UPR Working Group session in November. It wishes the Government of Costa Rica success in the implementation of the accepted recommendation and requests the UNHRC to adopt the UPR outcome report by consensus.

Morocco expresses its gratitude to Costa Rica for its exemplary commitment to the UPR, which reflects its dedication to promoting and protecting universal principles of human rights. The recommendations made by Morocco were made from a constructive approach, so it welcomes the decision of Costa Rica to adopt three of the recommendations made by Morocco on



children's rights. On the fourth recommendation made regarding a general law on food security, Morocco welcomes the commitment of Costa Rica to continue assessing that recommendation with a view to possible consideration in a more favourable context and with adequate time for its proper implementation. It wishes Costa Rica success in implementing the recommendations and supports the adoption of the outcome UPR document on Costa Rica.

Nepal welcomes the delegation of Costa Rica to the adoption of the UPR outcome and thanks them for their constructive engagement with human rights mechanisms. It thanks Costa Rica for accepting all three recommendations that we offered. Nepal commends Costa Rica's efforts to ensure everyone's access to quality drinking water and sanitation through the National Water Governance Mechanism. Nepal wishes Costa Rica every success in implementing the accepted recommendations and supports the adoption of the UPR outcome report by consensus.

The **Philippines** thanks Costa Rica for accepting the Philippine recommendations to further enhance measures including human rights education and training to combat domestic violence and access to quality education for children in rural areas, indigenous communities and those with disabilities or from migrant backgrounds and the strict enforcement of laws against femicide and street sexual harassment. It commends Costa Rica for its steadfast commitment to advancing human rights as demonstrated by its pledge to adopt a proactive approach in implementing the accepted recommendations. In conclusion, the Philippines endorses the adoption of the UPR working group outcome report on Costa Rica by consensus and wishes the country success in the implementation of the accepted recommendations.

Russia notes that its recommendations were adopted by Costa Rica for implementation and hopes that by the next round of the UPR, San José will report on measures to resolve longstanding problems such as the broad spread of inequality between men and women, domestic violence, police brutality, systematic manifestations of intolerance and xenophobia towards migrants. Russia trusts that Costa Rica's adopted recommendations will be duly implemented and will help overcome existing shortcomings in the field of human rights in that country. Russia will follow closely implementation by Costa Rica of recommendations received and recommends adoption of the report on Costa Rica's fourth UPR.

Sierra Leone extends a warm welcome to the distinguished delegation of the Republic of Costa Rica and thanks them for their continued cooperation and constructive engagements throughout the full cycle of the UPR process. It commends Costa Rica for its remarkable progress in areas such as poverty reduction, gender equality, environmental protections and the promotion of rights of indigenous peoples and marginalised groups. In particular, it acknowledges the establishment of the national strategy against hate speech and discrimination, efforts to combat gender-based violence and initiatives to address migration challenges which reflect Costa Rica's commitment to human rights and social justice. While recognising the challenges and implementing the recommendations, Sierra Leone encourages Costa Rica to further strengthen its efforts in the following areas, and in particular, we underline the importance of strengthening initiatives to reduce teenage pregnancy rates, enhancing protection against gender-based violence and addressing the intersection of climate change with particular emphasis on inequality. These areas are consistent with Costa Rica's existing priorities which could further consolidate its human rights achievement. Sierra Leone notes with appreciation Costa Rica's acceptance of our recommendation to implement measures to address and mitigate food



insecurity. Extending its best wishes for a successful implementation of the accepted recommendations, Sierra Leone urges the UNHRC to adopt its UPR outcome by consensus.

Trinidad and Tobago congratulates Costa Rica on its constructive engagement throughout this fourth cycle UPR process and appreciate the updates provided today. Of the 299 recommendations received during its review, we know that Costa Rica has accepted 244. Trinidad and Tobago welcomes Costa Rica's support of its recommendation relating to the elaboration of a national just transition policy. It also notes the voluntary commitments made by Costa Rica which includes the adoption of a national strategy for a society free of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia as a follow-up to its national policy which expires this year. These actions signal Costa Rica's continued commitment and willingness to pursue the promotion and protection of human rights at a national level. In this regard, Trinidad and Tobago supports the adoption of Costa Rica's UPR outcome and wishes the Government of Costa Rica success in its implementation of the accepted recommendations.

The **United Kingdom** welcomes the steps taken by Costa Rica to strengthen its approach to human rights and the emphasis it places on opportunities to enact change. This includes Costa Rica's creation of the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Monitoring and Implementation of International Human Rights Obligations. The UK looks forward to following its progress. The UK welcomes Costa Rica's acceptance of the recommendations made relating to freedom of the press and would welcome an update on Costa Rica's plans to improve the protections for journalists and the media. Finally, the UK welcomes Costa Rica's commitment to implement a new national policy for a society free from racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other related forms of intolerance. In particular, the UK would welcome an increased focus on protection of women and girls and the LGBTI+ community. As the first country in Latin America and the Caribbean to launch a national strategy against hate speech and discrimination, the UK looks forward to working with Costa Rica on these issues.

Venezuela welcomes the delegation of Costa Rica and thanks them for their presentation. Taking note of the cooperation with the UPR, Venezuela reiterates that voluntary mechanisms, not imposed ones, that yield the best results on human rights. Venezuela appreciates the acceptance of a large number of recommendations received during the interactive dialogue and urges the State to redouble its efforts with respect to recommendations of which it has taken note for possible implementation in the country. Venezuela reiterates its concern at the precarious situation of Indigenous communities when it comes to accessing rights such as education, health and access to services like electricity and drinking water, urging Costa Rica to step up its efforts for the benefit of this vulnerable group. It wishes Costa Rica success in implementing the recommendations accepted during the fifth cycle of the UPR and recommends the adoption of the report.

Viet Nam welcomes the delegation of Costa Rica to the adoption of its fourth UPR outcome report and comments the government for its demonstrable commitment to its international human rights obligations and cooperation with human rights mechanisms, including the UPR. It congratulates Costa Rica on its successful engagement with the working group last November. Viet Nam is particularly pleased to note Costa Rica's acceptance of all the recommendations it offered on the reduction of poverty and inequality through targeted social programmes, prevention of all forms of violence, including gender-based violence, particularly in remote areas,



and inclusion and the rights of persons with disabilities. While recommending the adoption of their UPR report, Viet Nam congratulates the delegation of Costa Rica on a successful review and wish them success in the efforts for the implementation of the accepted recommendations.

Albania congratulates Costa Rica for the presentation of the report and its ongoing commitment to the UPR process. It congratulates Costa Rica on the success of its UPR and for accepting a large number of recommendations with a view to furthering the protection and promotion of human rights in the country. Albania recognises that the Costa Rican Government accepted two recommendations from Albania on continuing efforts to improve the representation of women in the economic and political life of the country and to implement a strategy to guarantee that all children born on its territory be immediately registered and receive ID documents. It is on the basis of the recommendations accepted that Albania is convinced that Costa Rica will continue to make further improvements, particularly within its legislative and institutional framework in the field of human rights. In conclusion, Albania recommends adoption of the UPR report.

Armenia thanks Costa Rica for its continued commitment to the UPR process and ongoing efforts to promote and protect human rights for all. It acknowledges Costa Rica's leadership in environmental protection and sustainable development, as well as to further expanding social inclusion policies, protecting the rights of indigenous peoples and strengthening gender equality. Armenia supports the adoption of the outcome report on Costa Rica and wishes Costa Rica success in implementing the adopted recommendations to the national and international levels.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND UN AGENCIES

UN Development Coordination Office explains that Costa Rica continues to demonstrate its strong commitment to human rights. Since the last review, notable progress has been made in many areas. However, as the 299 recommendations put forward highlight, challenges remain. The Office notes with concern the continued discrimination of marginalised communities including Indigenous people, Afro-descendants, people with disabilities and the LGBTQI community. The increase in gender based violence, mounting hate speech and the growing insecurity faced by human rights defenders. The UPR must serve as a call to action for Costa Rica to redouble its efforts in protecting and promoting the human rights of all. The Office commends the role of the Inter-Institutional Commission, chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its permanent consultative body, which has been key in ensuring the participation of civil society, as demonstrated by the 25 submissions received. The Office also recognises the active participation of the Ombudsman, the Judiciary and the National Assembly's Human Rights Commission. Looking ahead, as the United Nations in Costa Rica, the Office is fully committed to support the State in fulfilling the agreed recommendations, ensuring these are translated into concrete and sustainable actions. The Office urges the international community to continue to stand for human rights and support Costa Rica in the implementation of the National UPR Plan, renewing its commitment to fully guarantee the rights of all people, leaving no one behind.

UNFPA recognises the efforts of Costa Rica, making this a very participative process in which civil organisations, especially those led by women, ask through their voices and reports, principle of progressiveness of human rights should be a part of the Costa Rican way of life. The UN system, especially UNFPA, will be supporting implementation of recommendations so that a group of member states have submitted to renew strategies against racial discrimination, xenophobia and



hate speech. To tackle all these phenomena that mainly affect Afro descendants, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and on the move, UNFPA will offer technical assistance to ensure that the principles of interculturality and intersectionality are applied in line with international standards. UNFPA will further continue to support the country's efforts to eradicate gender discrimination in all its facets and to foster the unpostponable universalization of sexual and reproductive health services, a theme over which a group of states expressed concern by addressing concrete recommendations. To conclude, UNFPA will accompany the State's efforts to modernize its follow-up mechanism to human rights obligations so that the UPR effort will allow to accelerate the reduction of inequalities and polarization towards more social cohesion, gender equality and sustainable development.

UN Habitat welcomes Costa Rica's continued progress towards eradicating poverty and to providing adequate housing and water and sanitation. It also welcomes efforts to localise human rights, including through the SDG network supported by UN Habitat. As Costa Rica urbanised rapidly with limited spatial planning, it faces a series of challenges. UN Habitat underlines the importance of right space urban planning to ensure access to an adequate standard of living for everyone and to avoid rising inequality. UN Habitat has been working with the Government to integrate and upgrade informal settlements. Enormous progress has been achieved. However, many settlements are located in areas vulnerable to environmental hazards and disasters. Consequently, these areas are also disproportionately vulnerable to public policy-driven forced evictions. Finally, UN Habitat would like to emphasise the importance of ensuring the equal access of all, especially women and persons at risk of marginalisation, to land and property rights, both in law and in practise. Noting that Indigenous peoples are disproportionately more likely to be living below the poverty line, ensuring their rights to their land is also essential. UN Habitat looks forward to strengthening its partnership with Costa Rica in the future.

OTHER STAKEHOLDERS\$

AKAHATÁ implements initiatives for sexual and reproductive rights. It welcomes Costa Rica's commitment to the UPR mechanism, while raising some concerns. The NGO's contribution shows, apart from the advances in the recognition of autonomous sexual work in the country, that sexual workers still face unstable labour conditions, illegal detentions and assaults by the police, including several cases of sexual violation, crimes that remain in the impunity. The primary reason for all of this is stigma towards sexual work and discrimination towards sexual workers. Sexual workers exercise the right to bodily autonomy and work, however, they face daily the violation of a wide range of rights and that compromises their integrity, their freedom and, in many cases, their lives. They call on the State discretion to take all the necessary measures to protect the rights of sexual workers, and on the Council and its mechanisms to recognise their rights and to attend their claims from an intersectional and human rights perspective.

The **Marist Foundation for International Solidarity** welcomes the decision of the Government of Costa Rica to support recommendations aimed at strengthening legal protection for LGBTIQIA+ persons. It commends efforts to prohibit and criminalise conversion therapies, to protect intersex rights by banning non-consensual surgeries, and to improve anti-discrimination measures, awareness-raising programmes and protection against gender-based violence. However, it voices concern that the Government of Costa Rica has banned reforms that negatively affect LGBTIQIA+ people. In January 2025, President Chávez announced the



elimination of the Commissioner for Social Inclusion, responsible for LGBTIQIA+ Afro-descendants, indigenous and persons with disabilities. He also repealed the decree to eradicate discrimination in institutions against the sexual diversity population. In addition, the Minister of Education eliminated the protocol to address bullying against the LGBTIQIA+ population in schools. More recently, the Executive Branch presented a bill, file 24.864, which proposes to increase prison sentences for those who perform abortions with or without the woman's consent. Given that many of the LGBTIQIA+ rights in Costa Rica were achieved by decree rather than by law, there are fears that regression will continue. The NGOs look forward to working closely with the Government in implementing the accepted recommendations and respectfully calls on Costa Rica to redouble its efforts to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and diversity of sexual characteristics.

Defence for Children International (DCI) welcomes Costa Rica's decision to accept 126 recommendations, but we would like to express our concern for the non-acceptance of 12 recommendations when life conditions, particularly of boys, girls, and adolescents, are deteriorating. There is less social investment and this has had an impact on the actions in favour of vulnerable groups. 34 per cent of girls, boys, adolescents, and young people in Costa Rica live in monetary poverty. DCI is extremely concerned by the increase of femicides and gender violence, which leaves children orphaned. There has been an increase in homicides that have triggered alarm in society. There has been discrimination, xenophobia, racism, and hate speech against diversity and migrants. It is important to increase the age of criminal responsibility. This is a debt Costa Rica has towards minors. Criminal repression is a violent state intervention and at the early age of 12, focus should be on protection and prevention and inter-institutional, interdisciplinary, and comprehensive care.

The **Centre for Global Non-Killing (CGNK)** asks when is the best time to plant a tree. Varying life from conception until beyond death is a planetary need. It is essential individually. It is essential to grant a future history and dignity and well-being to our humanity, our species. Without taking position or making any moral judgement, abortion is a planetary flag. 70 million pregnancies are terminated worldwide yearly. Though Costa Rica is considered as rather restrictive on the issue, its rate is only slightly above world average. Costa Rica is well known for life-enhancing policies. The CGNK congratulates the population and the authorities for these policies. They advance the cause of humanity, of peace, of human rights. Regarding abortion, preventing unwanted pregnancies, and fully granting reproductive rights and easily accessible contraception is key.

ILGA World welcomes the Costa Rican government's decision, support of recommendations to grant legal protection to LGBTIQIA+ individuals. It commends the efforts to ban and criminalise conversion therapies to promote intersexual rights through the prohibition of non-consensual surgery and to improve measures against discrimination, awareness-raising programmes, and protection against gender violence. ILGA World expresses its concern because the Government of Costa Rica has promoted reforms that negatively affect LGBTIQ+ individuals. In January 2025, President Chavez announced the elimination of the Commission for Social Inclusion, which is there to support persons of African descent, LGBTIQ+, Indigenous, and people with disabilities. He also derogated the decree to eradicate discrimination in institutions against sexual diversity. In addition to that, the Minister of Education eliminated the protocol on bullying against LGBTIQ individuals. Recently, the executive branch presented a bill to increase prison sentences for



people performing abortion with or without the consent of women. ILGA World fears that this backsliding might continue. It hopes to work closely with the Government to implement the recommendations supported, and asks Costa Rica to redouble its efforts to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and sexual characteristics diversity.

The **World Jewish Congress** gives the floor to the President of the Centro Israelita Sionista de Costa Rica, representing the Jewish community of Costa Rica, whose small yet vibrant community with around 2,500 members is very active and involved in various aspects of society, including politics, arts, business, academia, and the Government. It has institutions that cater to all areas, such as community centres, sports centres, and community schools, which help us maintain their Jewish identity and engage with national and global realities. The current situation in Costa Rica is relatively good, and they have maintained a good relationship with the Government, working together on mutual interest and receiving support in times of antisemitism, especially after the attacks of October 7. However, more than 75% of their community believes antisemitism has increased, and over 60% feel that the authorities have not done enough to address this perception. Therefore, Costa Rica needs to adopt protocols to combat antisemitism, such as the US Department of State's Global Guidelines for Countering Antisemitism. These would serve as effective tools against antisemitism and provide a legal basis to protect Jewish life and potential future threats. The Centre appeals for the Council's good offices to suggest to the Government of Costa Rica to join this initiative, which is not only a significant step in combating hatred against Jews, but also the right path to address other forms of discrimination in our society. Costa Rica is a country of peace, which will be strengthened by this initiative, honouring the words of Costa Rica's national anthem 'Long Live World and Peace.'

Rencontre Africaine pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (RADDHO) applauds Costa Rica for its strong commitment to human rights and acknowledges progress through legal reforms, anti-discrimination policies, and implementation of anti-human trafficking frameworks. Notable progress includes a significant reduction in poverty and the criminalisation of hate crimes. RADDHO also welcomes the measures taken to promote the emancipation of people of African descent, as well as the country's commitment to implementing the Durban Action Plan and Programme. However, RADDHO remains concerned about the ongoing challenges in the implementation of Article 172 of Costa Rica's penal code, which criminalises sex and labour trafficking. Despite efforts to protect victims through mechanisms, anti-trafficking programmes continue to suffer from inadequate funding and bureaucratic delays, limiting access to essential services such as housing, health care, and psychological support in rural and indigenous areas. The lack of training among labour inspectors is still leading to underreporting and weak referrals. Migrant women and children from neighbouring countries remain vulnerable to sexual exploitation and domestic servitude. Forced labour remains widespread in agriculture and domestic work, and the operations continue with impunity. In conclusion, RADDHO invites Costa Rica to strengthen victim identification efforts, increase funding for specialised shelters, and to ensure accountability for officials complicit in trafficking crimes.

The **Centre for Reproductive Rights (CRR)** regrets that Costa Rica has not supported key recommendations on access to abortion, emergency contraception, and education on sexual reproductive health and rights. In Costa Rica, abortion is only permitted in cases of risk to the life or health of the pregnant person. But even then, access to abortion services is extremely limited.



Moreover, the government recently proposed a retrogressive bill, still being discussed, seeking to increase prison sentences for women and girls who have abortions. Obstacles to accessing reproductive health services in Costa Rica go beyond the many issues to get abortion services. For example, even when the use of emergency oral contraception is legal in Costa Rica, there is much disinformation regarding its use and access, and it is still not included in the list of essential medicines, in contradiction with WHO guidelines. In addition to this, the Superior Council of Education recently decided to review and adjust sexual education programmes in Costa Rican schools. Limiting comprehensive sexual education would be a further setback on sexual and reproductive rights and health, preventing children and adolescents from making informed decisions about their lives and health. In the most recent UPR process, Costa Rica was called, among many other things, to take the necessary steps to decriminalise abortion, to grant effective access to oral emergency contraception, and to guarantee comprehensive sexual education in line with human rights standards. The CRR encourages Costa Rica to follow through its commitments to women's rights, to sexual and reproductive rights, and to human rights.

The **Centre for Justice and International Law (CJIL)** welcomes Costa Rica's UPR and we also welcome the fact that the country has reaffirmed its commitment with human rights. The CJIL expresses its concerns regarding the decision to take note of recommendations on guaranteeing judicial independence, particularly when it comes to appointments at the Supreme Court. While the judiciary law governs the appointment of certain judges, it does not govern the appointment of judges to high courts known as magistrates. It is urgent that we adopt and express rules on ensuring that appointments are made on the basis of merit. It is indispensable for an independent justice. The CJIL urges Costa Rica to open a dialogue for adopting measures to ensure access to justice. Second, specific regulation is needed on the appointment of high court judges by the legislature. Third, the executive branch should not interfere in the independence of the judiciary and the separation of powers should be respected. Regarding human mobility commitments, the CJIL will follow up closely, particularly regarding rights of persons expelled from the United States towards Costa Rica, which are currently detained in the temporary migrant holding facility. It is essential that the state ensure the protection of persons at risk and asylum seekers. We need information which is appropriate for these persons. The CJIL hopes that this dialogue is an opportunity to strengthen the participation of civil society and cooperate with the State.

FACTS & FIGURES ON UPR OUTCOMES

299 Recommendations Received

244 Recommendations Supported

1 Recommendation Partially Supported

53 Recommendations Noted

FACTS & FIGURES ON PARTICIPATION

15 State Delegations

3 Inter-Governmental Organizations and UN Agencies

9 Non-Governmental Organizations