



## UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

### Adoption of UPR Outcomes

#HRC58 • 25 March 2025

#### Dominica



#### STATE UNDER REVIEW

The delegation of **Dominica** conveys its gratitude for the constructive engagement of delegations during the 47th session of the UPR Working Group. In the same vein, it extends its sincerest gratitude to the members of the Troika - Brazil, Kuwait and Somalia - the UPR Secretariat and the OHCHR for their invaluable assistance and facilitation in preparing the report and throughout the UPR process.

Dominica remains resolute in its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with the Constitution and domestic laws, and in keeping with international obligations outlined in the United Nations Charter, the Bill of Rights and the several regional and international treaties to which we are a state party. Notwithstanding the complex challenges that it faces as a small island developing state, such as the collective impact of a warming climate, among other exogenous shocks, it remains resolute in this commitment.

Dominica continues to **devote efforts to the pursuit of social progress** and to strengthening the alignment of its laws, policies and measures with internationally recognised human rights standards. We recognise these endeavours as fundamental to advancing its national objectives, advancing the SDGs and building climate resilience. Furthermore, Dominica holds with high regard the work of the UNHRC and the human rights mechanisms in guaranteeing and safeguarding human rights, fostering international cooperation in upholding universal standards and ensuring accountability within the international community.

Dominica acknowledges the UPR mechanism as an important opportunity to take stock of its realities, identify achievements and shortcomings, and engage in dialogue to enhance efforts in achieving universal human rights standards. Moreover, it looks forward to its engagement with Special Procedures in facilitating the **visit of the Special Rapporteur on climate change** in May 2025. It is in this vein that Dominica welcomes all recommendations emanating from its fourth



UPR, confident that they were made in the spirit of constructive dialogue, solidarity and a shared commitment to advancing human rights globally.

At the 47th session of the UPR Working Group, Dominica received a total of **163 recommendations** from 59 states, covering 26 thematic areas. At this convening, Dominica took the decision to defer its response to the recommendations, recognising the significance of this decision and the necessity to **consult with the relevant stakeholders**. With the support of the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up, the Government of Dominica dedicated ample time and effort to meticulously review, evaluate and analyse each of the 163 recommendations, taking into account our national context, priority areas and the time frame for implementation.

As a result of this careful process of deliberation, Dominica is pleased to report that a decision has been taken **to support 109 of the 163 recommendations**, which represents 67% of the total. Dominica is pleased to note that the majority of supported recommendations are either in the process of implementation or have already been implemented. It also acknowledges and welcomes recommendations that build upon those supported during previous UPR cycles, thereby underscoring its ongoing commitment and consistent efforts to advance human rights. Following the decision on recommendations, the first step will be to **inform the relevant stakeholders**. The government remains committed to effectively implement the supported recommendations and translate them into tangible progress. The NMIRF, as well as dedicated technical officers, will play an important role in monitoring progress, coordination and accountability.

In addition to our efforts towards implementing the supported recommendations, Dominica also acknowledges the **54 noted recommendations**. In this regard, Dominica underscores that while appreciating the spirit and principles underpinning several of these recommendations, Dominica could not accept those that did not fully apply to its national context, have already been addressed by existing frameworks or those which present unfeasible financial implications and impractical time frames. Nevertheless, it remains open to continued dialogue on these issues and to exploring practical approaches to address the underlying concerns where feasible and with consideration for national values and principles.

On the **ratification of international conventions**, Dominica is pleased to inform that it is of its recent accession to the UNCAT on December 5th, 2024. It thanks the Convention Against Torture initiative for its support with this achievement and looks forward to continued partnership with partners as it seeks to more concretely map out its plans for implementation in the coming months. As a state party to **eight of the nine core human rights conventions**, Dominica remains steadfast in enhancing its implementation efforts. Dominica also commits to review the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of **All Migrant Workers** and Members of their Families in the upcoming period, demonstrating our resolve to strengthening human rights protections across all areas. Regarding recommendations relating to the **second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR** on the abolition of the death penalty, Dominica emphasises that while the death penalty remains part of its legal framework, it has not been applied over 39 years.

Dominica acknowledges the **backlog of outstanding reports** and the challenges in effectively engaging with treaty bodies. To address this, it will continue to enhance the capacity of our NMIRF



to improve compliance with reporting requirements. Additionally, it commits to continue to work with its partners, particularly the Human Rights Unit of the Commonwealth Secretariat, to submit outstanding reports in the coming period and remain open to support from other entities in strengthening our capacity in addressing these reporting gaps effectively.

Furthermore, as a nation highly susceptible to the **impacts of climate change**, Dominica recognises the promotion, the protection of the environment as intrinsically linked to the fulfilment of fundamental human rights. It remains focused on achieving its goal of becoming a **climate resilient nation**, as outlined in the National Resilience Development Strategy 2030. Dominica is actively advancing initiatives in line with the **human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment**. One key example is the construction of Dominica's 10 megawatt geothermal power plant, a project that is set to become the second of its kind in the Eastern Caribbean and the first within the Caribbean community and will propel Dominica closer to achieving a school of 100% renewable energy by 2030.

In 2023, Parliament enacted a suite of five family bills, including the Domestic Violence Act, Status of Children Act, Maintenance of Children Act, Children Care and Adoption Act and Maintenance Act. These legislative measures serve to **enhance protections for children**, their families, women, older persons, bringing Dominica's laws in greater compliance with human rights instruments such as the CRC and CEDAW. Dominica looks forward to further advancing the enforcement of these recent legislative measures and strengthening our efforts to promote and protect human rights for all, in particular vulnerable persons and groupings.

Finally, just last Wednesday, the Parliament of Dominika approved significant changes to **Dominica's electoral system** through the passage of three bills, the registration of electors' bills, the House of Assembly elections bill and the Electoral Commission bill. These improvements aim to modernise voter registration, enhance election security and ensure fairness and transparency in its electoral process. I now turn to the 54 noted recommendations.

While Dominica recognises the importance of establishing a **National Human Rights Institution** to enhance human rights protection and promotion, current resource constraints present challenges to this undertaking. However, it does commit to collaborating with its partners to conduct a scoping study to determine the most viable pathway towards its establishment, ensuring it aligns with national priorities and capacities.

Lastly, while Dominica lacks specific laws for **LGBTQI+ persons**, the constitution firmly prohibits discrimination based on sex, race, place of origin, political opinion, colour or creed. The government is committed to combating all forms of discrimination and ensure that all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation, have equal rights, opportunities and access to essential services.

The Government of Dominica remains firmly committed to the implementation of supported recommendations received during the UPR process with a view to advance the enjoyment of human rights by all within its jurisdiction. As a small island developing state, Dominica underscores the critical **importance of international cooperation** in realising these objectives and encourages the United Nations and the international community to continue to expand its technical support to developing countries to effectively implement UPR recommendations.



Dominica takes this opportunity to sincerely acknowledge the invaluable support provided by the Human Rights Unit of the **Commonwealth** throughout the UPR process and its ongoing assistance in promoting adherence to international human rights obligations. Furthermore, Dominica extends its profound gratitude to the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund for facilitating its participation in both the 47th session of the UPR Working Group and the 50th regular session of the UNHRC. Dominica remains appreciative of the opportunity to engage in this constructive dialogue and look forward to its outcome.

#### **UNHRC MEMBER AND OBSERVERS STATES**

**Nepal** welcomes the delegation of Dominica to the adoption of the UPR outcome and thanks it for the constructive engagement with human rights mechanisms. Nepal appreciates Dominica for accepting two out of the three recommendations that it offered and commends Dominica for its National Resilience Development Strategy 2030. Nepal wishes Dominica all success in implementing the accepted recommendations and supports the adoption of the UPR outcome report.

The **Philippines** welcomes the delegation of Dominica to this session and thanks it for supporting the Philippine recommendations to further deepen engagement with international human rights bodies and mechanisms, including by fulfilling reporting obligations to treaty bodies to enhance juvenile justice by considering alternatives to custodial sentences for children and youth in conflict with the law, to support their early rehabilitation and integration in society, and lastly to further strengthen mechanisms for combating gender-based violence including domestic violence by instituting effective legal and psychological support services for survivors. The Philippines supports the Council's adoption of the outcome report on the Commonwealth of Dominica and extends its best wishes for the successful implementation of all supported recommendations.

**Russia** notes with satisfaction Dominica's passage of the fourth cycle of the UPR and thanks it for the written submission of information on recommendations made to the country. Russia supports the Government's consistent efforts to enhance national capacities in the area of promotion and protection of human rights. It notes significant achievements by the Government in protecting the rights of the Kalinago people who are the direct descendants of the Karib people. Russia notes that the majority of recommendations have been adopted including three Russian ones. This demonstrates the Government's continued work to promote and protect human rights and its readiness to continue cooperating with international monitoring mechanisms. The Russian Federation recommends the adoption of the report of Dominica in the fourth UPR cycle.

**Trinidad and Tobago** congratulates Dominica on its constructive engagement throughout this fourth cycle UPR process and appreciates the updates provided. It notes that of the 168 recommendations received during its review, Dominica has pledged support for 109 of these including recommendations made by Trinidad and Tobago. This sends a notable signal of Dominica's continued commitment and willingness to pursue the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. Bearing in mind the many challenges faced as small island developing states, Trinidad and Tobago commends efforts being made by Dominica to inter alia bolster climate resilience and adaptation, strengthen its national coordination and reporting mechanism, and pursue technical assistance and capacity building opportunities in pertinent



areas. Trinidad and Tobago supports the adoption of Dominica's UPR outcome and wishes Dominica every success in its implementation of the supported recommendations.

**Venezuela** congratulates Dominica for its presentation and takes note of its cooperation with the UPR. Venezuela believes it is voluntary mechanisms, not imposed mechanisms, that yield the best results for human rights. Venezuela commends the acceptance of the three recommendations made by Venezuela related to education, bolstering national programmes for children and adolescents and access to healthcare, especially for persons with disabilities. Along those lines, it urges Dominica to continue working towards promoting, protecting and enjoyment of human rights, including the right to development, based on the recommendations accepted, as well as on the basis of those policies and plans that they consider relevant, based on national realities. For the above reasons, it recommends adoption of the report.

**Viet Nam** commends Dominica for their commitment to the UPR process in the promotion and protection of human rights. Viet Nam notes with satisfaction that the Government of Dominica has accepted the three recommendations made by Vietnam in terms of strengthening social protection programmes, expanding initiatives on gender equality and empowerment of women and promoting digital and technological inclusion in education. In particular, Viet Nam commends Dominica for its effort to better ensure climate resilience, a critical factor for the promotion and protection of human rights in such an island country in the Caribbean. Finally, it wishes Dominica every success in the implementation of the supported recommendations and request the Council to adopt the UPR report of Dominica by consensus.

The **Bahamas** congratulates Dominica on its constructive engagement in the UPR process. It commends Dominica for its acceptance of 109 out of 168 recommendations, demonstrating its firm commitment to strengthening human rights protections for its people. In particular, the Bahamas welcomes Dominica's recent ratification of the UNCAT. As a core state of CTI, the Bahamas stands ready to share its experiences as Dominica takes steps towards the full implementation of the UNCAT. It also recognises Dominica's continued efforts to enhance legal protections, particularly through the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act and the strengthening of mechanisms to safeguard vulnerable groups. Additionally, it acknowledges the resilience exhibited by Dominica in overcoming challenges posed by climate change and external shocks, which remain key concerns for SIDS. As such, the Bahamas encourages Dominica to seek any necessary technical assistance to facilitate the full realisation of all human rights, including the right to development, and calls on the international community to support the country in this regard. In closing, it wishes Dominica every success for the next crucial phase of implementing the supported recommendations.

**Belgium** welcomes Dominica's commitment to the UPR and thanks it for taking into account its recommendation on continuing its fight against domestic violence by updating its policy and plan of action on gender equality. However, Belgium regrets that the two other recommendations by Belgium were not supported. The first encouraged the authorities to facilitate a public dialogue with a view to ratify the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. Belgium reaffirms its opposition to the death penalty in all circumstances, whatever the crime committed. Its abolition contributes to strengthening human dignity and full respect for human rights. The second recommendation that was not supported encouraged the authorities to amend legislation to



allow abortions when the foetus has defects incompatible with life outside the womb or where the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest. Bodily autonomy of women and their mental and physical health are essential to ensure their dignity. In a constructive spirit, Belgium invites the authorities to reconsider their position on these two points.

**Burkina Faso** warmly welcomes the delegation of Dominica and thanks it for the additional information provided. Burkina welcomes Dominica's acceptance of a large number of recommendations made to it during its review, including the three recommendations made by Burkina Faso. The latter notes with satisfaction the constructive approach and the efforts by Dominica to protect and promote human rights on the ground and encourages it to continue this work. In conclusion, Burkina Faso calls for the adoption of the report of Dominica by consensus and encourages its delegation to implement supported recommendations effectively.

**Chile** welcomes Dominica's active, constructive participation in its fourth UPR. Chile stresses that Dominica accepted three of the five Chilean recommendations, including with regard to modifications to national legislation to provide adequate protection to women from all forms of violence through a comprehensive data collection system, thereby allowing for timely reporting of cases of GBV. Chile also welcomes progress made when it comes to human rights, as well as accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, its integration into the Escazú Agreement and the entry into force in July 2023 of the new domestic violence law, which contributes to strengthening the normative framework for protection of rights. Chile wishes Dominica every success in implementing its commitments and reiterates its willingness to continue cooperating in the framework of the UNHRC.

**China** commends Dominica's constructive participation in the fourth cycle of the UPR and welcomes the positive achievement it has made in enhancing climate resilience. China also notes that Dominica has made notable progress in combating human trafficking, reducing poverty, improving social security and providing healthcare and education services. It is also committed to protecting the rights of specific groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons and Indigenous people. China appreciates Dominica's acceptance of its recommendations on strengthening the social security system and providing better public services for vulnerable groups. China wishes Dominica continued progress in its human rights endeavours and supports the adoption of the UPR outcome.

**Cuba** reiterates its commitment to the UPR and to the promotion of all human rights. In spite of the challenges the country faces as a small island developing country, Dominica has accepted 109 of 160 recommendations received, including the three submitted by Cuba, geared towards continued progress in social protection, promoting equity and reducing poverty. Small island developing states share challenges and opportunities. Cuba recognises the efforts made by Dominica in approving new laws on the rights of the family, for care for persons with disabilities and access to a high quality healthcare system and empowerment of women. Dominica can always count on respect, solidarity and cooperation from Cuba. Wishing Dominica every success in implementing the recommendations supported, Cuba supports the adoption of the UPR outcome report.

The **Dominican Republic** thanks Dominica for the presentation of the report in the context of the UPR, a mechanism which it profoundly values due to its cooperative nature, its constructive



approach and its transformative role in promoting and protecting human rights. The Dominican Republic applauds the active participation of Dominica in this fourth cycle of the UPR and commends the adoption of a considerable number of recommendations, including four of the five submitted by the Dominican Republic. The latter stresses in particular the acceptance of its recommendation regarding resilience to climate change, a theme which is a critical priority for small island developing states who face with growing urgency the adverse impacts of extreme phenomena. The Dominican Republic commends the progress made in promoting gender equality and protection of older persons, areas where Dominica has shown political will and openness to normative and institutional strengthening. It reiterates its support for the adoption of the report in this fourth cycle of the UPR and wishes every success in implementation of the recommendations supported.

**India** warmly welcomes the delegation of Dominica for the adoption of the report of the UPR Working Group on its fourth cycle of the UPR, held on 7 November 2024. The review saw substantive participation with 59 delegations taking the floor and making a total of 168 recommendations. India appreciates the constructive engagement of the delegation of Dominica during the entire review, which reflects their commitment to the UPR process. India appreciates that as many as 109 recommendations have been accepted by Dominica, including one out of the two recommendations made by the delegation of India. While recommending the adoption of the UPR report, it wishes Dominica success in its efforts towards implementing the supported recommendations.

**Jamaica** welcomes the delegation of Dominica for the consideration and adoption of the outcomes of the UPR. Jamaica commends the Government of Dominica for their continued commitment to human rights as evidenced by the 109 recommendations accepted during this review, including recommendation 97.64 on efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and child labour, including through reinforcement of the child protection system and strengthening the legal framework against all forms of exploitation. Jamaica encourages Dominica's targeted operationalisation of recommendation 97.22 on technical assistance and capacity-building to support the Government's efforts for the promotion and protection of human rights. Jamaica expresses its best wishes for the successful adoption of the Dominica's review and congratulates the delegation of Dominica for its constructive engagement with the UNHRC.

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND UN AGENCIES

**UN Women** commends the Government of Dominica's commitment to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. It welcomes significant advancements in addressing violence against women and girls including the enactment of the Domestic Violence Act in July 2023. UN Women recognises national efforts to develop sexual harassment legislation and a national strategic action plan to reduce gender-based violence towards strengthening the gender equality legislative and policy framework. UN Women encourages the Government of Dominica to enhance the resourcing and capacity of the Bureau of Gender Affairs to effectively lead the implementation of the forthcoming amended national gender policy, to standardise the collection and the use of national data, to analyse and respond to the complexities of gender-based violence and gender inequality, to adopt rights-based culture-sensitive and gender-responsive approaches to address the needs of Indigenous Kalinago women, and to further build our disaster risk resilient shock and gender responsive social protection and economic



empowerment policies, programmes and mechanisms. UN Women reaffirms its readiness to support the Government of Dominica in its efforts to accelerate gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

**UNFPA** commends the Government of Dominica for its constructive dialogue with the UNHRC, its efforts towards human rights and its support for the most of the sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence recommendations. Its support for 109 of 168 recommendations from the fourth UPR demonstrates this commitment. UNFPA congratulates the country for adopting key laws and policies regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, gender-based violence and domestic violence, health and gender equality and for strengthening them. UNFPA congratulates Dominica on ratifying several human rights instruments and its commitment to gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights, including its support for recommendations 97.71 and 97.72. UNFPA applauds the Government's intent to continue combating all forms of discrimination, including those of women and girls and persons with disabilities, as well as child marriage. It commends the commitment to sexual and reproductive health services for all, including the recent adoption of the standards for quality health care for adolescents. UNFPA commends the Government for including the Kalinago community, including in climate change resilient efforts. It applauds the appointment of women as the first president of the Kalinago community and the inclusion of the women at the highest decision-making levels. UNFPA will continue to support the Government's efforts to improve human rights in Dominica.

**UNICEF** welcomes Dominica's acceptance of 80% of child rights recommendations made in this UPR cycle. UNICEF appreciates and recognises the leadership of the Government of Dominica in enacting five key family laws in 2023, which enhance the protection of children and their families. UNICEF further commends the Government of Dominica for its focus on reducing gender-based violence and the use of corporal punishment in educational settings through sustained teacher training. UNICEF takes this opportunity to urge the Government to clearly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, as suggested in several UPR recommendations. This constructive step would align with Dominica's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and with its national development strategy and country's long-term goals of prosperity, social justice and sustainability. UNICEF remains fully committed to support the government in its commitment to realise the rights of every child in Dominica.

#### **OTHER STAKEHOLDERS**

**Edmund Rice International (ERI)** commends the constructive participation of Dominica in its fourth UPR and its support for 109 of the 168 recommendations received. It commends the progress made since its previous UPR in enacting new laws to enhance the protection of children and families and its work towards increasing access to education, including in the early childhood sector. It also commends the work undertaken in the wake of Hurricane Maria to rebuild schools and build climate resilience. ERI commends Dominica for supporting recommendations to review legislation to guarantee the right to education for all persons without discrimination and to ensure that it is inclusive. ERI further commends Dominica for its support of the recommendations to strengthen the legal framework for protection against all forms of exploitation and to end child abuse. ERI encourages Dominica to consider repealing Article 5 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1970 and to work towards explicitly prohibiting the use of corporal punishment in all settings. ERI commends the commitment of Dominica to implement



the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It encourages Dominica to work towards increasing accessibility for all people and providing quality education for children with disabilities in their local communities. Finally, ERI encourages Dominica to take proactive action before its next UPR to make progress on all recommendations it has supported and continue its efforts to improve access to a quality education, strengthen the protections of children and continue to build their resilience to the impacts of climate change.

The **Centre for Global Non-Killing (CGNK)** recalls that every life counts. The homicide rate is declining in Dominica. However, it is still way above world rate. Dominica is a small island state with a modest population. Such small countries may manage their social cohesion easier and some of them have reached a non-killing state with no homicides or suicides or even no world traffic casualties. Among the various measures available to lower the homicide rate is the exemplarity of the state. A state that tells its population that it does not dare to kill anyone or to fret to kill sends a similar message to the population telling the people they should not kill and to the contrary, that people should celebrate the good and worth of life protected. The opposite is true. A population that refuses to kill may incite its government to refuse to kill. To that end, the CGNK would prefer a constitutional change. Ratifying the second Optional Protocol of the ICCPR would be legally sufficient to show the way. Noting that the death penalty is still too present in the Caribbean region, the CGNK would appreciate if Dominica would show the good example of life respected regionally as well. The CGNK wishes the best to Dominica in its behaviours as in implementing UPR recommendations.

The **Advocates for Human Rights** welcomes the UPR outcomes and LGBTQ rights in Dominica. It applauds the High Court's April 2024 ruling striking down laws criminalising same-sex relations, aligning Dominica with Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Saint Kitts and Nevis in affirming human rights. However, the absence of legal protections against discrimination in employment, housing, education and healthcare leaves LGBTQ+ Dominicans vulnerable. Law enforcement failure to investigate and report instances of violence and harassment against the LGBTQ+ community further entrenches this discrimination. Despite these urgent concerns, Dominica rejected all LGBTQ+ rights recommendations. The Advocates for Human Rights thanks Brazil, Portugal, Canada, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg and Mexico for their advocacy and urges Dominica to enact comprehensive anti-discrimination laws, combat stigma and ensure legal protections for LGBTQ+ individuals. Additionally, Dominica must invest in LGBTQ+ inclusive healthcare, including access to PREP; training police and judicial officials on sexual orientation, gender and gender identity; establishing an independent tribunal to hold law enforcement accountable for inaction in cases of is essential. It calls on Dominica to uphold its human rights obligations and take decisive action to protect LGBTQ+ persons.

### FACTS & FIGURES ON UPR OUTCOMES

**163** Recommendations Received

**109** Recommendations Supported

**163** Recommendations Noted



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

## FACTS & FIGURES ON PARTICIPATION

**15** State Delegations

**3** UN Agencies

**3** Non-Governmental Organizations