



PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

17 July 2023

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the fourth cycle review of Ecuador by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group at its 41st session in November 2022. The constructive engagement between your Government, my Office, and the UPR mechanism is warmly welcome. As the final outcome report on the review of Ecuador was recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 52nd session, I have also taken note of the efforts of your Government to implement specific recommendations since the previous review.

A matrix of thematically clustered recommendations, starting with those supported by your Government, is available at OHCHR's website (<https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/ec-index>), and should be considered as part of this letter. The matrix indicates the recommending State and links each recommendation to relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In annex, I have also attached my Office's observations in light of the outcome of the fourth cycle of the UPR. In line with previous practice, I will be sending similar observations to all Member States once their fourth cycle UPR outcome is adopted by the Human Rights Council, with a view to follow-up action in close cooperation with national entities and other stakeholders.

I take this opportunity to draw your attention to the support available through the Voluntary Fund for UPR Implementation, which may be activated at the request and with the consent of a concerned State, along with tools such as the "[UPR practical guidance](#)" and the "[UN good practices](#)" repository on how the UPR process supports sustainable development, with a view to facilitating efforts to implement UPR recommendations in line with the SDGs.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Volker Türk

His Excellency
Mr. Gustavo Manrique Miranda
Minister for Foreign Affairs
and Human Mobility of Ecuador



Observations in light of the outcome of the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review

The ratification by Ecuador of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) is welcome. Positive note is taken of Ecuador's commitment to develop a national action plan on business and human rights, and to set up effective mechanisms to investigate, prosecute and sanction companies in the event of human rights abuses.

It was well noted during the review that Ecuador reported on measures adopted to address structural problems within the penitentiary system, such as the adoption of the Public Policy on Social Rehabilitation of prisoners, the granting of pardons to persons deprived of liberty, and a plan to streamline access to penitentiary benefits. Further steps are urged to improve prison conditions and to protect and guarantee the rights of persons deprived of their liberty. Ecuador is encouraged to implement the recently adopted Law on the Use of Force, and to continue training and building the human rights capacities of law enforcement to ensure that their responses are reasonable, necessary and proportionate. It is recalled that during the High Commissioner's visit to Ecuador in January 2023, he expressed concern about the use of the armed forces in public security tasks.

During the review, concerns were expressed regarding the situation of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Ecuadorian and Montubio people, and their enjoyment of social, economic, cultural and environmental rights. Additionally, there is a need to implement a comprehensive policy for the protection of human rights defenders and journalists, also stressed during the review.

While acknowledging current efforts being made, Ecuador is encouraged to undertake further steps to foster a culture of gender equality and to address violence against women and girls, including by allocating the necessary resources to protect and provide justice and remedy to victims.

Ecuador is also encouraged to develop an implementation plan in follow up to the UPR outcome, in close consultation and cooperation with all stakeholders, in particular the parliament, the judiciary, the national human rights institution, local and regional governments, and civil society organizations. The matrix may be of use in the development of such an implementation plan. The Government is encouraged to explicitly link each UPR recommendation to corresponding recommendations of other international or regional human rights mechanisms and to the relevant SDG and its targets. This will, in turn, facilitate the creation of synergies between UPR implementation and SDG related actions and reporting within the context of the Voluntary National Review (VNR).



The Government is further encouraged to strengthen the national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, with the aim of ensuring a coordinated and effective approach to reporting to international human rights mechanisms, and to implementing the recommendations, in line with the guidance provided by OHCHR following regional consultations and the High Commissioner's report to the Human Rights Council ([A/HRC/50/64](#)).

Further, an important measure that could positively contribute to follow-up action is voluntary mid-term UPR reporting. All Member States are encouraged to submit a voluntary mid-term UPR report some two years after the adoption of the UPR outcome. In this regard, the Government of Ecuador is encouraged to continue with the practice of submitting a mid-term report on follow-up to the fourth cycle UPR recommendations by 2025, detailing both implementation efforts as well as challenges to implementation, including the possible need for technical or capacity-building assistance.

OHCHR
17 July 2023