NATIONS UNIES
LE HAUT-COMMISSAIRE
AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME

UNITED NATIONS
THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

1 October 2025

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the fourth cycle review of the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group at its 48th session in January 2025. As the final outcome report on the review of the Islamic Republic of Iran was recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 59th session, I have 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/ir-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, available at https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/upr-main, 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. Seyed Abbas Araghchi
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran

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

The acceptance by the Islamic Republic of Iran of the recommendation to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles is a welcome development. The Islamic Republic of Iran's commitment to continue implementing its refugee policies aimed at guaranteeing the enjoyment of rights of refugees as enshrined in the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol is positively noted.

The commitment of the Islamic Republic of Iran to enhancing cooperation with the thematic special procedures by considering their country visits is also welcome. The Islamic Republic of Iran is encouraged to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It is urged that the Islamic Republic of Iran ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty; prohibit executions of persons who were under the age of 18 at the time of the commission of the crime in all circumstances; reduce the number of crimes punishable by death; and consider the implementation of a moratorium on the death penalty. The Islamic Republic of Iran is also encouraged to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

It is essential to bring an end to the use of torture, as well as to ensure full, transparent, and comprehensive investigations into human rights violations, with a view to holding those responsible accountable. It is necessary to apply international standards on the use of force during protests, release all persons arbitrarily arrested for peacefully participating in protests or for non-compliance with mandatory veiling laws, and reverse laws that discriminate against women and girls.

During the review, concerns were raised about allegations of intimidation, arbitrary detention, attacks, criminalization, stigmatization and killings of human rights defenders, especially women human rights defenders, as well as over Internet censorship and shutdowns. It is critical to implement the recommendations to fully guarantee the rights to freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly, and association, providing an enabling and safe environment, including online, especially for women human rights defenders.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is 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, local and regional governments, and civil society organizations. OHCHR remains ready to support these efforts as part of

the Human Rights Technical Cooperation Framework. The matrix of thematically clustered recommendations 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 from other international and 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 also encouraged to further strengthen the national mechanism for implementation, 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 about two years after the adoption of the UPR outcome. In this regard, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran may wish to continue with the practice of submitting a mid-term report on follow-up to the fourth cycle UPR recommendations by 2027, detailing both implementation efforts as well as challenges to implementation, including the possible need for technical or capacity-building assistance.

OHCHR
October 2025