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

8 January 2026

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the fourth cycle review of Guyana by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group at its 49th session in April/May 2025. As the final outcome report on the review of Guyana was recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 60th 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/gy-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. Hugh Hilton Todd
Minister for Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation
of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana

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

The efforts of Guyana to improve access to public services, such as healthcare and education, and expand social welfare initiatives are positively noted. The adoption of the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030 in 2022, along with the launch of the Global Biodiversity Alliance in 2025, also constitute noteworthy progress. OHCHR welcomes Guyana's support for several recommendations, received at the UPR review, on continuing initiatives to reduce poverty and geographical disparities in access to basic services, as well as on adopting policies addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation. It also welcomes Guyana's support for recommendations on strengthening civic participation and consulting Indigenous Peoples in policy development. OHCHR stands ready to support Guyana in these efforts.

Guyana's commitment to enact comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and decriminalize consensual same-sex relations and legally prohibit and combat violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics is a welcome development. Of note are also Guyana's voluntary pledges to continue building the institutional capacity of the national mechanism for implementation, reporting, and follow-up on its human rights treaty obligations, along with the capacity of constitutional oversight bodies, including the rights commissions, the Guyana Elections Commission and the judiciary.

During the UPR review, concerns were raised regarding some areas in which progress is still needed, including with regard to the ratification of several international instruments, such as the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Additional concerns raised included the lack of progress in the operationalization of the Human Rights Commission as an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, and in the implementation of a formal moratorium or abolition of the death penalty. While taking note of the ongoing constitutional reform process, OHCHR encourages Guyana to pursue efforts in these areas to ensure that its legislation and institutional framework are fully compliant with international human rights standards.

Guyana 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. 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 Guyana may wish to consider 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
January 2026