



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Excellency,

I have been following the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Cabo Verde and welcome the constructive engagement of your Government during the 30th session of the UPR Working Group in May 2018.

Following the final outcome report on the review of Cabo Verde as recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 39th session, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a number of areas raised in the two reports that my Office had prepared for the review of Cabo Verde. This include in particular the Compilation of UN information and the Summary of Stakeholders' submissions which I consider in need of particular attention over the next four and a half years until the next cycle of the UPR. In identifying those areas, I have also considered the statements and/or recommendations made by 70 delegations, the presentation and responses made by the delegation of Cabo Verde and the actions taken by the Government to implement the 123 recommendations it had accepted during the second cycle of the UPR. The aforementioned areas cover a range of issues and appear in the Annex to this letter.

I am particularly encouraged by Cabo Verde accepting several recommendations during its review, as this represents is a real opportunity for cooperation between your Government and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). In particular, this concerns the ratifications, during the period under review, of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's Convention for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

I also welcome the revision of the Penal Code in 2015, which criminalise human trafficking, forced prostitution, supporting or facilitating prostitution of children and slavery, and aggravating penalties for sexual crimes; the prohibition of corporal punishment and any action that endangers the integrity of children and adolescents; preventive measures taken against child labour; and the adoption in 2017 of the National Human Rights and Citizenship Plan to implement the national strategy for human rights education and the dissemination of a human rights culture in the public administration.

H.E. Mr. Luís Filipe Lopes Tavares
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Communities and Defence
Cabo Verde

I encourage Cabo Verde to develop a comprehensive national human rights action plan in order to achieve concrete results in the areas contained in the annex and to facilitate the preparations of Cabo Verde for the fourth cycle of the UPR. The development of the plan should include consultations with all stakeholders, in particular civil society organizations, and, where necessary, the support of international organizations, OHCHR and other United Nations entities, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator.

I encourage Cabo Verde to make further efforts to strengthen its national mechanism for comprehensive reporting and follow up in relation to recommendations from international and regional human rights mechanisms and treaty obligations. I strongly recommend the use of the practical guide that my Office released in 2016 on this topic and which is available at: http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR_PUB_16_1_NMRF_PracticalGuide.pdf.

Please kindly note that I will be sharing my advice with all Member States as they go through the third cycle of the UPR with a view to assisting them with the implementation of UPR recommendations early on, following the review. An important measure that can contribute positively to follow up action is voluntary mid-term reporting. I strongly encourage all Member States to submit a voluntary mid-term report two years after the adoption of the UPR outcome report. In this regard, I encourage Cabo Verde to submit a mid-term report on the follow-up of the third cycle of the review, by 2020.

As the Secretary-General stated in his 2017 report on the work of the Organization (A/72/1, paragraph 98): *"The Human Rights Council's universal periodic review process is now entering a new cycle, with every Member State scheduled for a third round of scrutiny. We will work to strengthen the relevance, precision and impact of the Council's recommendations, including by providing better support to Member States in implementation, stronger collaboration with United Nations country teams and the establishment of national mechanisms for human rights reporting and follow-up to link the universal periodic review to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals."*

I look forward to discussing with you ways in which my Office may assist Cabo Verde to take action in the areas I have identified in this letter and its Annex.

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



Michelle Bachelet
High Commissioner for Human Rights

cc: H.E. Ms. Janine Tatiana Santos Leis
Minister of Justice and Labour
Cabo Verde

Annex

Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies

- Strengthening the normative framework by ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, and the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

National human rights framework

- Taking measures to make the National Commission for Human Rights and Citizenship (CNDHC) compliant with the Paris Principles.

Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Civil and political rights

Right to life, liberty and security of persons

- Taking measures to improve conditions of detention centres and detainees.

Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

- Continuing strengthening the judicial system through the provision of additional resources.

Prohibition of all forms of slavery

- Continuing the efforts to enable concrete progress in combating trafficking in persons, including through the effective implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons (2018-2021).

B. Economic, social and cultural rights

Right to education

- Continuing the efforts to facilitate access to education for all, and particularly to women and girls in rural areas.

C. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women

- Ensuring implementation of the regulations for the shelters of victims of sexual violence and adoption of measures to promote greater participation of women in economic and political life.
- Strengthening the capacity of law enforcement and judicial officers in dealing with sexual and gender-based violence.
- Continuing intensifying efforts to eradicate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, including by increasing public education and awareness.



Children

- Intensification of the efforts to protect children from violence, exploitation and abuse through the effective implementation of existing legislation and measures adopted in recent years.

Persons with disabilities

- Continuing the work to strengthen the comprehensive vision of the preventive measures and rehabilitation for the benefit of persons with disabilities.

Migrants

- Considering enhancing coordination between institutions and services that deal with migration-related issues to aid effective implementation of rights under the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.