

Responses to Recommendations

GREECE

Review in the Working Group: 09 May 2011
 Adoption in the Plenary: 22 September 2011

Greece's responses to recommendations (as of 05.01.2012):

In the Report of the Working Group:	In the Addendum:	During the plenary:	Summary:
97 recs. accepted; 9 rejected; 18 pending	Out of the 18 pending, 15 recs. were accepted (among which recs. n°84.18 is considered as being implemented) and 5 rejected ¹	No additional information provided	Accepted: 112 Rejected: 14 No clear position: 0 Pending: 0

List of recommendations contained in Section II of the Report of the Working Group A/HRC/18/13:

- A - 83.1. Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Algeria, Austria, Brazil, France, Ukraine) that it has already signed in 2007 (Algeria) and its Optional Protocol (Austria, Ukraine);
- A - 83.2. Consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Argentina, India), to which it is a signatory (India);
- A - 83.3. Adopt or ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (Ecuador);
- A - 83.4. Redouble efforts to ensure access to public places and labour market to persons with disabilities and to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Morocco);
- A - 83.5. Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (Spain);

¹ The total number of recommendations is now 126 as two were split.

- A - 83.6. Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);
- A - 83.7. Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from the Enforced and Involuntary Disappearance (Armenia);
- A - 83.8. Proceed to the ratification of International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as soon as possible and fully recognize the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearance, as provided for in articles 31 and 32 of the Convention (France);
- A - 83.9. Continue efforts directed to achieving gender equality, and fully implement the National Programme for Substantive Equality for 2010–2013 (Russian Federation);
- A - 83.10. Accelerate the implementation of the National Action Plan for Migration Management (Canada);
- A - 83.11. Continue to implement the National Action Plan on Asylum Reform and Migration Management to address legal and institutional shortcomings (Australia);
- A - 83.12. Give priority to the implementation of the National Action Plan for the reform of the asylum system and migration management (Netherlands);
- A - 83.13. Strengthen further the effective implementation of the National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, in line with suggestions made by CEDAW (Chile);
- A - 83.14. Implement recommendations and decision of human rights protection mechanisms, including special procedures (Austria);
- A - 83.15. Enhance accessibility of the United Nations Human Rights system for all members of Greek society by ensuring the translation into Greek of its UPR outcome and relevant treaty body concluding observations and special procedures country reports (Canada);
- A - 83.16. Continue its activities in full cooperation with NGOs and civil society organizations in order to guarantee the effective and equal application of all human rights (Palestine);
- A - 83.17. Take more efforts to eliminate discrimination against women (Bangladesh);
- A - 83.18. Take steps to bring about changes in attitudes with a view to eliminating patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes regarding the roles of women and men in the family and society, including through awareness-raising and public education campaigns (Moldova);
- A - 83.19. Intensify its efforts to change stereotypical images and discriminatory attitudes and perceptions about the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society (Portugal);
- A - 83.20. Take further measures in order to fully implement the already existing domestic legislation in the field of gender equality (Indonesia);
- A - 83.21. Develop measures aimed at addressing women's low occupational representation and the promotion of diversification of women's academic and professional choices, including in non-traditional fields (Portugal);
- A - 83.22. Take action with regard to the impediments that Muslim minority women in Thrace may face when sharia law is applied on family and inheritance law matters (Netherlands);²
- A - 83.23. Take measures to strengthen legal and institutional mechanisms aimed at preventing, punishing and eliminating all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on gender, racial and national origin, and religion (Argentina);
- A - 83.24. Pursue its efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (Algeria);

- A - 83.25. Effectively implement legal provisions aimed at eliminating racial discrimination (Bangladesh);
- A - 83.26. Take effective measures to combat the persistence of stereotypes based on racial discrimination and intolerance (Senegal);
- A - 83.27. Contribute to the effective investigation, prosecution and punishment of incitement to hatred and hate speech (Egypt);
- A - 83.28. Further ensure that racially motivated crimes are effectively prosecuted and punished and that research to evaluate the incidence of racial discrimination is conducted with the aim of adopting targeted measures to eliminate such discrimination (Brazil);
- A - 83.29. Adopt mitigating measures to protect its most vulnerable population: women heads of household, the unemployed, farmers, retired people, children, persons with disabilities, et alia (Ecuador);
- A - 83.30. Include sexual orientation and gender identity as grounds for protection in anti-discrimination legislation and policies (Norway);
- A - 83.31. Ensure the effective and full implementation of the law adopted in 2006 to fight domestic violence (Austria);
- A - 83.32. Strengthen efforts to effectively fight against the phenomenon of violence against women (Morocco);
- A - 83.33. Take necessary steps to implement the relevant plan of action adopted by the National Coordination Mechanism, as a part of its ongoing fight against trafficking in human beings (Russian Federation);
- A - 83.34. Increase efforts to prevent trafficking in women and girls and provide support to victims effectively by implementing the integrated National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and fully enforcing the legislation on trafficking (Republic of Moldova);
- A - 83.35. Intensify its efforts to combat trafficking in human beings with a special attention to the needs of the victims (Algeria);
- A - 83.36. Take additional measures to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings, and to protect victims and prosecute traffickers (United States of America);
- A - 83.37. Continue its efforts to combat transnational child trafficking and exploitation (Republic of Moldova);
- A - 83.38. Take an initiative to draft a law that would establish an independent bureau under the direct authority of the Ministry of Citizen's Protection to deal with incidents of arbitrary conduct by law enforcement officials (Turkey);
- A - 83.39. Take steps to prevent attacks against immigrants and hate speech (Turkey);
- A - 83.40. Ensure prompt and impartial investigations of cases of excessive use of force by the police and law enforcement officials (Austria);
- A - 83.41. Continue pursuing measures aimed at improving police accountability and prioritizing alleged instances of misconduct (Lebanon);
- A - 83.42. Regarding the use of excessive force by the police, implement an independent complaint mechanism, which will investigate any allegation concerning violence, acts of torture and other mistreatments by the police (Switzerland);
- A - 83.43. Build upon its achievement in the area of human rights education and training, particularly for public officials, to strengthen the fight against alleged police violence (Botswana);

- A - 83.44. Continue efforts to combat human rights violations in the public administration (Indonesia);
- A - 83.45. Reduce the use of pretrial detention, ensuring judicial review, establishing an independent police complaints mechanism and speeding up trials (Hungary);
- A - 83.46. Quickly establish an independent and effective police complaints mechanism (United Kingdom);
- A - 83.47. Make the necessary efforts so that judicial proceedings do not suffer undue delay, and implement a system that prevents people of different sex being detained in the same facilities, and sometimes even mixed with minors (Spain);
- A - 83.48. Continue its efforts in improving the situation of detainees in Greek prisons and those held in police custody (Denmark);
- A - 83.49. Establish prison conditions that comply with the provisions of the 1999 Prison Law (Australia);
- A - 83.50. Adopt appropriate legislative or administrative measures for effective access to justice, including the right to legal redress in the courts (Mexico);
- A - 83.51. Take all necessary, prompt and effective measures to remedy the problem of the length of the judicial procedure (Morocco);
- A - 83.52. Implement measures to ensure speedier resolution of legal cases, for example, encouraging out of courts settlements and better use of information technology (United Kingdom);
- A - 83.53. Consider appropriate, effective measures to provide for a better promotion and protection of the freedom of religion or belief (Slovakia);
- A - 83.54. Continue to take measures to safeguard religious freedom and promote tolerance among its inhabitants (United States of America);
- A - 83.55. Take appropriate measures to ensure the effective enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, particularly in the case of national, ethnic and religious minorities (Mexico);
- A - 83.56. Take steps to improve transparency, including by improving citizens' rights to access Government-held information (Australia);
- A - 83.57. Take measures to accelerate the increase in women's political participation at all levels of political and public life, particularly in Parliament and in the foreign services (Republic of Moldova);
- A - 83.58. Allocate a greater space for women's participation in the political sphere (Senegal);
- A - 83.59. Take measures to encourage the return of women to the labour market after a long absence due to maternity (France);
- A - 83.60. Take special measures for unemployed women (Netherlands);
- A - 83.61. Uphold respect for and protection of the rights of all individuals to self-identification, freedom of expression and freedom of association, including for the members of ethnic, religious and linguistic groups that are not officially recognized as minorities (Slovenia);
- A - 83.62. Continue its work for the realization of human rights of the Roma population in the country and to focus on implementation of adopted strategies at a local level as well as on countering discrimination by private actors (Sweden);
- A - 83.63. Take measures to provide Roma with increased opportunities for education and employment (United States);

- A - 83.64. Accelerate the process for the building of a mosque in Votanikos, Athens, without further delay (Turkey);
- A - 83.65. Rapidly incorporate the adopted legislative amendments in order that its asylum system will be fully in conformity with regional and international norms in the field of human rights (Switzerland);
- A - 83.66. Continue giving priority to introducing legislative amendments and implementing actions aiming at respecting human rights of all migrants and speeding asylum procedures (Lebanon);
- A - 83.67. Consider establishing and implementing a comprehensive asylum system consistent with international and regional standards on protection and reception of asylum-seekers and irregular migrants, with an allocation of adequate resources (Poland);
- A - 83.68. Ensure that asylum-seekers and irregular migrants are treated according to Greece's human rights obligations and strengthen all efforts to implement the national action plan on asylum reform and migration management (Austria);
- A - 83.69. Undertake a review of detention conditions for asylum-seekers to ensure they are fully in line with international and European standards (Canada);
- A - 83.70. Commit to speedily implement an effective asylum system consistent with EU standards (United Kingdom);
- A - 83.71. Resort to forced expulsions only within the strict respect of regional and international norms (Switzerland);
- A - 83.72. Take steps to protect asylum-seekers and ensure respect for the principle of non-refoulement in accordance with international refugee law and international human rights law (Canada);
- A - 83.73. Ensure that no individual is directly or indirectly "refouled" to their country of origin, or any other country where they may face persecution (Poland);
- A - 83.74. Take further measures to improve the treatment of asylum-seekers and to ensure that deportation processes are carried out after exhaustion of legal remedies (Brazil);
- A - 83.75. Formalize a closer cooperation with local and international NGOs, in order to make a better use of available resources, when addressing the difficult humanitarian situation in Greece today (Norway);
- A - 83.76. Continue to implement measures within the framework of the presidential decree that set the framework for addressing the situation of unaccompanied minors (Chile);
- A - 83.77. Continue its efforts to ensure the observance of fundamental rights and international standards in the context of asylum procedures, particularly with regard to the treatment of unaccompanied minors (Argentina);
- A - 83.78. When reforming the asylum system and migration management, pay special attention to the needs of unaccompanied minors in all processes that pertain to solving their cases, and prevent administrative detention from being a standard practice for new irregular migrants (Slovenia);
- A - 83.79. Take immediate measures to make sure that all unaccompanied children are given a guardian and a safe residence when they arrive in Greece (Norway);
- A - 83.80. Take further steps to enhance the number and quality of available accommodation facilities and other services offered to minors and vulnerable groups arriving in Greece (Denmark);
- A - 83.81. Pay special attention to the position of unaccompanied minor immigrants (Netherlands);
- A - 83.82. Continue addressing irregular migration as a matter of priority, reinforcing further its efforts, such as the recently adopted National Action Plan for Migration Management (Slovakia);

A - 83.83. Reinforce implementation of the relevant legal and policy framework with a view to combating efficiently trafficking in women, providing victims with all necessary assistance including legal redress, rehabilitation and social integration (Slovakia);

A - 83.84. Devise a long-term Government strategy aimed at integration of immigrants (Poland);

A - 83.85. Increase its budget for migration detention centres and migrant care through intensified cooperation with EU partners (United States);

A - 83.86. Ensure detention conditions for irregular migrants are in conformity with EU human rights standards (United Kingdom);

A - 83.87. Work for amelioration of the situation of migrants, particularly in regards to access to and quality of the asylum procedure, the conditions in detention centres and to ensure that protection is granted to refugees in line with its international obligations, by implementing the National Action Plan for Migration Management and taking necessary further actions (Sweden);

A - 83.88. Continue efforts aimed at improving the administrative and legal services and the living conditions of irregular migrants and asylum-seekers, especially vulnerable categories, such as women and children (Qatar);

A - 83.89. Establish a new unit in the Ministry for Citizen Protection, and continue the reform aimed at training police officers in order to deal with asylum-seekers and migrants in accordance with international criteria for human rights (Qatar);

A - 83.90. Design and implement a comprehensive policy on care and protection to migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in Greece (Ecuador);

A - 83.91. Implement measures to curb abuses against refugees and migrants, including minors, regardless of their immigration status, perpetrated by police authorities, and punish adequately those responsible, so to avoid impunity (Ecuador);

A - 83.92. Take the necessary measures to ensure that no asylum-seeker is sent back immediately to its country of origin or any other country where his/her life is in danger, in accordance with applicable international norms (Ecuador);

A - 83.93. Improve the space and sanitary conditions of shelters for migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, so that they comply with international and regional standards (Ecuador);

A - 83.94. Strengthen, in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders, the capacity to process, treat and shelter asylum-seekers and irregular migrants, in accordance with relevant regional and international standards (Mexico);

A - 83.95. Improve the treatment of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees (Iraq);

A - 83.96. Undertake the process of consultations with civil society stakeholders and the National Commission for Human Rights in the follow-up to the UPR review (Austria);

A - 83.97. Continue its commendable engagement in the field of the international development cooperation despite current challenges (Algeria).

84. The following recommendations will be examined by Greece which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the eighteenth session of the Human Rights Council in September 2011:

R - 84.1. Accede to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Ukraine);

R - 84.2. Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal, Spain) allowing individual complaints of alleged violations of these rights to be heard by CESCR (Portugal);

84.3. Ratify a certain number of human rights treaties such as

R - the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and
A - the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (Palestine);

84.4. Proceed with the ratification of

R - the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and
A - the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Cyprus);

A - 84.5. Consider (Brazil) ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Armenia, Brazil);

A - 84.6. Ratify the remaining human rights instruments, especially the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Slovenia);

A - 84.7. Consider the gradual ratification of pending international instruments (Chile);

A - 84.8. Ratify the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Slovakia);

A - 84.9. Develop and implement a National Action Plan on Human Rights in order to have a systematic strategy for the promotion and protection of human rights (Spain);

A - 84.10. Incorporate in the legislation the combat against discrimination based on gender identity or expression (Spain);

A - 84.11. Consider recognizing same-sex couples (Brazil);

A - 84.12. Take supplementary measures to remedy the situation reported by the NGO ARSIS which would suggest that efforts to reinforce by legislation the fight against exploitation and sexual abuse have not eliminated the problem of child exploitation, in particular for "street children" (France);

A - 84.13. Include information about Greece being a country of destination and transit for human trafficking in school curriculums at secondary and university levels (Iraq);

A - 84.14. Collect disaggregated data on the dissemination of hate speech against minorities (Egypt);

A - 84.15. Consider opening of one of the historical mosques in Thessaloniki, where significant number of Muslim population live (Turkey);

R - 84.16. Be more flexible on the preconditions set for minaret construction (Turkey);

A - 84.17. Execute the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights regarding the applications of the Turkish Union of Xanthi, the Cultural Association of Turkish Women of Rodopi and the Evros Minority Youth Association (Turkey);

A - 84.18. On the one hand, constantly reflect on human rights when processing the request of asylum-seekers and refugees, specifically focusing on their individual situation, their detention conditions and the eventual organization of their repatriation and, on the other hand, solicit the necessary support of the European Union in this regard (Senegal).

85. The following recommendations did not enjoy the support of Greece:

R - 85.1. Sign (Egypt) and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Albania, Egypt, Senegal, Palestine); accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, as another significant step in the protection of human rights (Guatemala); continue its efforts by ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Morocco); consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Argentina); adopt or ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ecuador); consider adhering to the Convention on the Rights of All

Migrant Workers and the Members of Their Families as recommended by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in its recommendation number 1737 of 17 March 2006 (Algeria);

R - 85.2. Create a mechanism to overcome the difficulties faced by non-Greek speakers during detention and court ruling phases (Turkey);

R - 85.3. Ensure equal rights for minority citizens such as the Roma, particularly the right to vote (Australia);

R - 85.4. Take necessary steps to ensure the election of the muftis by the Turkish Muslim Minority and repeal the relevant articles of the Law No. 3536 regarding the appointment of imams, which the minority has severely opposed (Turkey);

R - 85.5. Revise the relevant legislation concerning the Waqfs in consultation with the minority with a view to enabling the minority to directly control and to use its own Waqf properties, and to put an end to misuse and expropriation of Waqf properties (Turkey);

R - 85.6. Initiate procedures for the opening of Turkish-language kindergartens for minority children in Komotini and Xanthi (Turkey);

R - 85.7. Speed up the process of reinstating the citizenship of approximately 60,000 Greek citizens who were deprived of Greek citizenship, because of the later repelled article 19 of the Greek Citizenship Law. Create a mechanism to compensate their losses in terms of ownership rights that occurred as a result of the process (Turkey);

R - 85.8. Start a dialogue with the NGOs of the Turkish communities in Rhodes and Kos for the solution of their problems in the field of religious freedom and resume Turkish-language education, which has been denied since 1972 (Turkey);

R - 85.9. Implement effectively the National Action Plan for migrants and protect the rights and interests of migrants without prejudice to their status, and minorities including Muslims and Roma population (Bangladesh).

Notes

1 The original wording: "Take action with regard to the impediments that Muslim women may face on matters such as marriage and inheritance as a result of the non-application of the general law of Greece to these women (Netherlands)".

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