



Promoting and strengthening
the Universal Periodic Review

Recommendations & Pledges

ICELAND

First Review Session 12

Review in the Working Group: 10 October 2011
Adoption in the Plenary: 15 March 2012

Iceland's responses to recommendations (as of 07.06.2012):

In the Report of the Working Group:	In the Addendum:	During the plenary:	Summary:
52 recs. accepted (among which 18 were considered as already implemented or in the process of implementation); 32 pending	Out of the 32 pending, the delegation accepted 17 (among which 10 were considered as already implemented -> 63.17, 63.18, first part of 63.19, 63.20, 63.21, 63.27, 63.28, 63.29, 63.31 and 63.32), rejected 3 and converted 14 into voluntary commitments (-> no clear position) ¹	No additional information provided	Accepted: 69 Rejected: 3 No clear position: 14 Pending: 0

Paragraph headers are as in the Report of the Working Group, but the nature of responses to recommendations may have subsequently been changed.

List of recommendations contained in Section II of the Report of the Working Group A/HRC/19/13:

61. The following recommendations enjoy the support of Iceland:

¹ The total number of recommendations is now 86 as two were split.

- A - 61.1. Commit to the ratification of the CRPD promptly (United Kingdom);
- A - 61.2. Adhere to the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and consider favourably its ratification in the shortest time possible, in line with the Government's commitment to the rights of persons with disabilities (Mexico);
- A - 61.3. Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as its optional protocol (Brazil);
- A - 61.4. Suggest the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (Chile);
- A - 61.5. Continue the progress made on the rights of persons with disabilities through the adoption of various legislative measures by ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) as well as its Optional Protocol (Hungary);
- A - 61.6. Include in Icelandic legislation a definition of racial discrimination (Australia);
- A - 61.7. Incorporate all of the substantive provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination into domestic law, with a view to ensuring comprehensive protection against racial discrimination (Canada);
- A - 61.8. Continue to safeguard all human rights provisions in its new Constitution (Norway);
- A - 61.9. Study the possibility of becoming party to the following international instruments: the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Argentina);
- A - 61.10. Take measures aimed at establishing a national human rights institution with a broad mandate that promotes and protects human rights in accordance with the Paris Principles (Argentina);
- A - 61.11. Encouraged the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution based on Paris Principles (Afghanistan);
- A - 61.12. Ensure adequate human rights education and training for all professionals working with children (Slovenia);
- A - 61.13. Coordinate preventive measures for the elimination of this trend (of cases of violence and sexual abuse of children) and develop preventative training programs, in particular for teachers and other professionals working with children (Uruguay);
- A - 61.14. Formally incorporate education about child sexual abuse and its prevention into the training of teachers and other professionals working with children, health professionals, lawyers and police officers (Slovenia);
- A - 61.15. Pursue vigorously preventive and awareness-raising policies in combating discrimination based on race or ethnicity, in addition to the measures already taken (Algeria);
- A - 61.16. Continue vigorously to address issues around gender inequality and racial/ethnic discrimination (United Kingdom);
- A - 61.17. Embark on public sensitization programmes and adopt anti-discrimination legislation to address all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (Ghana);
- A - 61.18. Undertake measures to tackle all manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (Iran);
- A - 61.19. Reinforce efforts in combating all manifestations of racism, xenophobia and other related intolerance (Slovakia);

A - 61.20. Consider adopting comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, addressing all manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in all spheres of life (Israel);

A - 61.21. Take measures to reduce the gender pay gap and eliminate gender-based violence (United States of America);

A - 61.22. Increase the research, collection and analysis of data on the prevalence, causes and consequences of violence against women, including information on the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim in cases of violence as well as the possible causes for the reluctance of victims to lodge complaints (Uruguay);

A - 61.23. Modernise the prison system in order to ensure adequate resources and capacity and that the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners are fulfilled (Finland);

A - 61.24. Increase efforts to effectively prevent trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation and forced labour, including child prostitution, and take measures to ensure assistance to possible victims of human trafficking (Republic of Moldova);

A - 61.25. Should overlook its legislation on custody and take actions to ensure that the welfare and protection of the children are prioritized in custody cases (Sweden);

A - 61.26. Strengthen the participation of women in political and private decision-making centres, in particular in the diplomatic and judicial fields (Spain);

A - 61.27. Continue efforts in ensuring access to the rights of older persons in the context of an adequate standard of living and healthcare (Israel);

A - 61.28. Put in place measures aimed at integrating minorities, reducing their vulnerability to exploitation and discrimination and guaranteeing their access to work in accordance with their educational qualifications and professional experience (Spain);

A - 61.29. Ensure that immigrants gain access to professions reflecting their educational level and professional experience (Iran);

A - 61.30. Take due measures to tackle the rising unemployment rates among immigrant caused as a result of financial crisis, given the concerns contained in the National Report, (Afghanistan);

A - 61.31. Intensify efforts to improve the situation of students with an immigrant background in order to increase enrolment and to avoid drop-outs (Ghana);

A - 61.32. Continue developing policies to guarantee and affirm the rights of migrant women (Argentina);

A - 61.33. Continue to make efforts to guarantee the rights and participation of foreigners, in accordance with the commitment made in paragraph 124 of the National Report (Chile);

A - 61.34. Assess possible action to overcome the issue referred to in paragraph 52 of the National Report regarding the worrisome dropout rate for pupils of immigrant background, which may be partly due to lack of skills in the Icelandic language (Chile).

62. The following recommendations enjoy the support of Iceland which it considers to be already implemented or in the process of implementation:

A - 62.1. Enact legal and societal reforms in order to ensure that non-native citizens and legal residents are able to fully enjoy their constitutionally and internationally protected human rights (United States of America);

A - 62.2. Make every effort to preserve the various components of the existing social protection programs and ensure the rights of vulnerable groups (Algeria);

A - 62.3. Take proactive and sustained measures to eliminate stereotypical attitudes about the roles and responsibilities of women and men, including through awareness-raising and educational campaigns directed at both women and men and the media (Republic of Moldova);

A - 62.4. Endeavour to implement the recommendations by CEDAW to eliminate all forms of stereotypical attitudes against Women (Ghana);

A - 62.5. Share its experiences with other countries with regard to its system in helping especially sexually abused or exploited children and adolescents, the so-called Barnahus (Finland);

A - 62.6. Continue efforts to combat all forms of violence against women with a particular emphasis on the most vulnerable groups of society (Israel);

A - 62.7. Establish a community education program to raise awareness of domestic violence against women and options open to them to bring an end to this crime (Australia);

A - 62.8. Reflect the findings of the new action plan to examine gender-based acts of violence and their prosecution and handling in the judicial system in the next national UPR report (Norway);

A - 62.9. Fight against domestic violence through more effective measures against perpetrators, and especially by protecting and avoiding the deportation of migrant women victims of gender violence (Spain);

A - 62.10. Adopt comprehensive legal and other measures to combat all forms of violence against women and particularly violence in the home and sexual violence (Uruguay);

A - 62.11. Take effective measures to tackle trafficking in human beings, domestic violence and sexual offences (Iran);

A - 62.12. Prosecute perpetrators of human trafficking (United States of America);

A - 62.13. In view of the trajectory in recent years of increased instances of human trafficking to and via Iceland, the government may need to pay continued attention to help victims of trafficking; (Afghanistan);

A - 62.14. Take necessary measures to ensure that no child is subject to religious practice that confines their religious freedom or the liberty of parents to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions (Sweden);

A - 62.15. Pass legislation to increase female representation in management positions, and implement it as soon as possible, and continue efforts to achieve equal pay for men and women (Norway);

A - 62.16. Strengthen its efforts to increase the number of women in high-ranking posts, particularly in academia (Republic of Moldova);

A - 62.17. Combat poverty and social exclusion, particularly of the disadvantaged and marginalized groups, with the adoption of clear indicators to assess progress achieved (Iran);

A - 62.18. Ensure that the procedure to request and recognize refugee status be in compliance with the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (Uruguay).

63. The following recommendations will be examined by Iceland and its responses will be provided in due time, but no later than the nineteenth session of the Human Rights Council in March 2012:

NC - 63.1. Ratify the ICRMW and the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education and

R - also to withdraw its reservations to several provisions of ICCPR (Iran);

NC - 63.2. Ratify, as soon as possible, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (France);

NC - 63.3. Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the optional protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Brazil);

A - 63.4. Ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons as well as the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Slovakia);

NC - 63.5. Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance
A - and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Spain);

NC - 63.6. Ratify or accede to, as appropriate, to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Uruguay);

NC - 63.7. Ratify or accede to the; the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Uruguay);

R - 63.8. Define torture according to article 1 of the CAT (Brazil);

A - 63.9. Continue with the complete incorporation into domestic law of the rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Spain);

A - 63.10. Study the possibility of becoming party to the following international instruments: Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Argentina);

NC - 63.11. Establish a National Human Rights Institution in keeping with the Paris Principles (France);

NC - 63.12. Establish a National Human Rights Institute accredited by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC) and take the necessary measures to warrant its independence by granting it the required statutory powers and budgetary resources (Hungary);

NC - 63.13. Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Republic of Moldova);

A - 63.14. Maintain and enhance its development assistance programs designated to the developing countries (Algeria);

R - 63.15. Give further consideration to the incorporation of the definition of discrimination against women contained in article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women in its national legislation (Brazil);¹

A - 63.16. Consider the creation of a public body tasked with monitoring and creation of preventative measures to counter violence and sexual abuse against children (United Kingdom);

A - 63.17. Take legislative measures to ensure that all children are effectively protected from sexual exploitation (Iran);

A - 63.18. Take legislative measures to ensure that children older than 14 years of age are effectively protected from sexual exploitation (Brazil);

A - 63.19. Take legislative measures to ensure that children older than 14 years of age are effectively protected from sexual exploitation; and adopt the amendment bill to the General Penal Code, which would extend the statute of limitations in respect of sexual abuse cases against children (Israel);

A - 63.20. Approach, at all instances, child victims of sexual exploitation as victims and not offenders, providing for appropriate victims' reintegration (Slovakia);

A - 63.21. Strengthen the protection framework for the rights of the child, particularly through measures to prevent child abuse, exploitation and violence against children, as well as facilitating access to justice and legal aid, and medical and psychological support to victims (Mexico);

A - 63.22. Take measures to eliminate the obstacles for women victims of domestic and sexual violence faced when bringing complaints and seeking protection (Republic of Moldova);

NC - 63.23. Authorities ensure separate incarceration of juveniles and adults and of pre-trial detainees and convicted prisoners (Australia);

NC - 63.24. Establish a norm leading to the separation of women and men in penitentiary centres and between adults and minors; and set up measures to ensure compliance with this norm, having heard information on the measures that will be adopted in penitentiary centres (Spain);

NC - 63.25. Implement the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders, otherwise known as the "Bangkok Rules" (Thailand);

NC - 63.26. Should take action to protect the principle of legal security by expanding the capacity in the prison system so that all inmates are guaranteed a treatment in accordance with the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Sweden);

A - 63.27. Support Muslims by enabling them to freely practice their religion (Iran);

A - 63.28. Put in place temporary special measures to encourage acceleration of the achievement of substantive equality between women and men, particularly within the private employment sector (Republic of Moldova);

A - 63.29. In the framework of the review of asylum and immigration law, and in accordance with the recommendation made by Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), grant foreign workers a no less favourable treatment than that which is granted to nationals in respect to restrictions, requirements and working conditions (Mexico);

NC - 63.30. Consider joining the convention on the rights of migrant workers in line with recommendation 1737 of 17 March 2006 of the Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe (Algeria);

A - 63.31. Conduct appropriate public awareness campaigns with a view to eliminating prejudices and to promote understanding and tolerance towards immigrants (Slovakia);

A - 63.32. Reduce the vulnerability of migrants to exploitation and discrimination through, among other measures, the review of the system to grant work permits and raising awareness of employers (Uruguay).

Voluntary Pledges & Commitments Made By Iceland in the Framework of the UPR

Document A/HRC/19/13/Add.1:

- ... will examine whether to ratify the ICRMW following a study of possible legal implications.
- ... will examine whether to ratify the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education following a study of possible legal implications.
- Iceland will consider ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment after having completed a study of their legal implications.
- Iceland will consider ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol to the Covenant on, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights after having completed a study of their legal implications.
- Iceland will consider ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Covenant on, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Optional Protocol to 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, after having completed a study of their legal implications.
- Iceland will consider ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment after having completed a study of their legal implications.
- Iceland will consider ratification of the ICRMW and the Optional Protocol to the Covenant on, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights after having completed a study of their legal implications.
- Iceland will actively examine the possibility of establishing a National Human Rights Institution in keeping with the Paris Principles in connection with the National Action Plan on Human Rights that is being prepared.
- Iceland is in the process of building a new prison that will enable a better separation of prisoners and improve prison conditions in the country in general. When the new prison will be ready in 2015, two prisons that have not met the highest standards will be closed. Iceland will in addition continue to examine ways to achieve the goal set forth in the Convention on the Rights of the Child to separate juvenile prisoners from adult.
- Iceland will examine the possible implementation of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders, otherwise known as the "Bangkok Rules".
- Iceland will consider ratification of the ICRMW after having completed a study of its legal implications.

Notes

1 The recommendation made during the interactive dialogue was stated as follows: "Give further consideration to the incorporation of the definition of discrimination against women contained in article 1 of the Convention in its national legislation." (Brazil).

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