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Excellency,

I have been following the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Senegal and welcome the constructive engagement of your Government during the 31st session of the UPR Working Group in November 2018.

As the final outcome report on the review of Senegal has been recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 40th session, I would like to take this opportunity to follow up on a number of areas raised in the two reports that my Office had prepared for the review of Senegal – the Compilation of United Nations 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 107 delegations, the presentation and responses made by the delegation of Senegal and the actions taken by your Government to implement the 154 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 welcome Senegal efforts to improve human rights protection, including through the adoption of the Children's Code; the review of discriminatory provisions in national legislation, particularly in the Family Code; legal and institutional reforms to improve prison conditions; and steps to strengthen the national human rights action plan.

I further encourage Senegal to undertake in-depth legal and institutional reforms to improve prison conditions, with special attention to vulnerable prisoners, including women, children and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities. I also encourage Senegal to accelerate the legal reforms undertaken to bring the Senegalese Human Rights Committee in line with the Paris Principles.

I welcome the adoption of a national human rights action plan and encourage Senegal to strengthen further the national action plan and to effectively implement it in order to ensure the achievement of concrete results in the areas highlighted in the Annex to this letter and to facilitate the preparations for Senegal's fourth cycle of the UPR. My advice to Member States is to develop and implement national action plans in close consultation and cooperation with all stakeholders, in particular the national human rights institution and civil society organizations and, where necessary, with the support of international organizations, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and other United Nations entities, under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator.

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H.E. Mr. Sidiki Kaba
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad
Senegal



I encourage Senegal to continue its efforts to strengthen its national mechanism for comprehensive reporting and follow-up in relation to recommendations received from all international and regional human rights mechanisms and treaty obligations, and linking this to the Sustainable Development Goals. I strongly recommend the use of the practical guide that my Office released on this topic, which is available at:

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR_PUB_16_1_NMRF_PracticalGuide.pdf.

Please kindly note that I am 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 the recommendations, following the review. An important measure that can contribute positively to follow-up action is voluntary mid-term reporting. Therefore, 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 Senegal to consider submitting a mid-term report on follow-up to the third cycle of the review, by 2021.

As stated by the Secretary-General 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 Senegal in relation to the areas 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. Mr. Ismaïla Madior Fall
Minister of Justice
Senegal

Annex

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

- Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.
- Responding positively to pending visit requests by special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, and considering the extension of a standing invitation to all mandate holders.

National human rights framework

- Strengthening the national mechanism for reporting and follow-up.
- Strengthening the national institutions for the protection of human rights, including the Senegalese Human Rights Committee and the National Observatory of Places of Deprivation of Liberty.
- Promoting the culture of respect for human rights and their protection.

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

A. Cross-cutting issues

Equality and non-discrimination

- Ensuring adequate resources for the effective implementation of the second national strategy for gender equality and equity (2016-2026).
- Implementing the National Action Plan for the Eradication of Gender-based Violence and the Promotion of Human Rights (2017–2021).
- Reviewing the Family Code to eliminate discrimination against women.
- Strengthening further capacity-building and awareness-raising programmes to combat stigma and discrimination against persons living with HIV/AIDS.
- Increasing efforts to protect the rights of vulnerable groups.

B. Civil and political rights

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

- Ensure the effective administration of justice also by reducing pre-trial detention time.
- Intensifying efforts to improve conditions of detention in penitentiary institutions and to reduce prison overcrowding.
- Strengthening efforts to ensure that the human rights and fundamental freedoms of prisoners and detainees are fully respected and guaranteed.

Prohibition of all forms of slavery

- Strengthening efforts to combat trafficking in persons, particularly women and children, smuggling, forced labour and related offences.
- Ensuring the implementation and enforcement of Act No. 2005-6 against trafficking in persons and for the protection of victims, in particular children.

- Systematizing the arrest and prosecution of all individuals who violate the anti-trafficking law.

C. Economic, social and cultural rights

Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

- Further expanding socially oriented programmes promoting youth employment.
- Ensuring development policies significantly advance economic, social and cultural rights.
- Devoting more resources to programmes to promote youth and women's entrepreneurship.
- Continuing efforts for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and poverty reduction measures, including in order to improve the standards of living of children and women.

Right to health

- Ensuring the implementation of the universal health coverage programme, especially for children and women, the poor and most vulnerable groups.
- Continuing efforts to reduce child mortality, including neonatal mortality.

Right to education

- Improving primary education, the quality of vocational training, teaching and learning at all levels.
- Working towards increasing the school enrolment rate, especially of girls and children with disabilities.
- Introducing education on human rights and gender equality in school curricula from primary education onwards and for health-care professionals.

D. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women

- Strengthening the legal framework for the promotion and protection of women's rights and gender equality.
- Ensuring revisions of the Family Code to eliminate discrimination against women.
- Expansion of efforts to centralize data collection for the elimination of discrimination against women and migration-related statistics.
- Development and implementation of measures to enable rural women's access to land, health care, education, transport, food, water, sanitation, social protection and inheritance rights.
- Intensifying efforts to improve conditions of detention of women in penitentiary institutions.
- Increasing the recruitment of women officers in police stations and gendarmeries, particularly to handle the cases of girls and women who have been subjected to violence.
- Ensuring that perpetrators of gender-based violence are prosecuted and convicted.
- Guaranteeing the independence of the national mechanism for the advancement of women.



Children

- Ensuring the compliance of the Children's Code with relevant international human rights instruments, as well as its swift adoption, and taking appropriate measures to ensure its implementation, including by seeking technical assistance from the international community.
- Dismantling the networks that organize children begging daily on the streets, and systematically prosecuting individuals involved in the organization of such networks.
- Strengthening measures to combat trafficking in persons, especially *talibe* children.
- Taking measures to effectively implement the national action plan to eliminate child marriage and increasing to 18 years the minimum age of marriage.
- Ensuring the adoption of the draft law to reorganize Qur'anic schools – the *daaras*.

Persons with disabilities

- Ensuring full implementation of Law No. 2010-15 on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Increasing efforts in educational support for children with disabilities, taking into account the points raised by the Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- Ensuring more equitable access to quality education for children, including children with disabilities.