

Responses to Recommendations

VANUATU

Review in the Working Group: 12 May 2009
 Adoption in the Plenary: 25 September 2009

Vanuatu's responses to recommendations:

In the Report of the Working Group:	In the Addendum:	During the plenary:	Recommendations pending responses:	Summary:
No response, all pending	44 REC accepted; 1 partly accepted and rejected; 4 rejected	No additional information provided	None	Accepted: 44 Rejected: 5 No clear position: 0 Pending: 0

List of recommendations contained in Section II of the Report of the Working Group A/HRC/12/14:

“56. In the course of the discussion, the following recommendations were made to Vanuatu. These recommendations will be examined by Vanuatu, which will provide responses in due time. The responses of Vanuatu to these recommendations will be included in the outcome report adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twelfth session:

A - 1. Continue fulfilling its obligations under international treaties as well as considering the possibility (Algeria) of acceding to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Algeria, Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, France, Japan) and its Optional Protocol (Azerbaijan, Czech Republic) and continue its efforts to bring about their prompt ratification (Mexico);

R - 2. Within the spirit of the Durban Review Conference and Human Rights Council resolution 9/12 (Brazil), consider (Algeria, Brazil) the ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Algeria, Brazil, Azerbaijan, France, Japan);

R - 3. Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Azerbaijan, Japan, Netherlands);

A - 4. Ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption (Netherlands);

R - 5. Keep under consideration the possible ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers

and Members of Their Families (Mexico); Accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Azerbaijan);

A - 6. Follow up its ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child with implementation (Slovenia);

R - 7. Consider acceding to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Italy);

A - 8. Take prompt action to implement the Family Protection Act (Australia); Continue its efforts to allocate sufficient resources to ensure its effective implementation (Netherlands);

A - 9. Continue to incorporate CEDAW principles into its domestic legislation (Canada, Italy); Review its domestic legislation (Azerbaijan) and take appropriate measures (Algeria) to bring it into full conformity with all human rights conventions to which it is a party, especially CEDAW (Algeria, Azerbaijan) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Azerbaijan) and to implement specific recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in this regard (Azerbaijan), and referred to in paragraphs 4 and 14 of the OHCHR compilation (A/HRC/WG.6/5/VUT/2) (Algeria); Continue to act upon the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Italy); Undertake further actions to combat discrimination against women and to ensure equality for women on the ground, and in this regard take into account the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Netherlands);

A - 10. Review all relevant legislation so as to eliminate all forms of discrimination against or marginalization of women (Canada) and amend all laws which perpetuate discrimination against and marginalization of women (Austria);

A - 11. Pursue its efforts to ensure equal rights for men and women (Italy) and go beyond recognizing equality of women in its legislation to ensure that this equality is *de facto* recognized (Canada);

A - 12. Put in place a strategy to ensure that the rights of women are upheld by the justice system in line with Vanuatu's obligations under CEDAW (Austria);

A - 13. Consider (Brazil) reviewing the legislation on the minimum age for criminal responsibility (Azerbaijan, Brazil) with the purpose of bringing it into full conformity with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Azerbaijan);

A - 14. Strengthen its efforts to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by amending the Constitution to prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities and support the role of disabled persons' organizations (New Zealand);

A - 15. Expedite action to address the two issues contained in paragraphs 30(a) and (b) of the national report through the proposed amendment to the Representation of the People Act (Ghana);

A - 16. Take forward and continue with its efforts to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Mexico, United Kingdom); Consider (Maldives) establishing a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Azerbaijan, Germany);

A - 17. Continue strengthening the role of the Ombudsman's office, including its ability to follow up on the results of its investigations, and increase efforts to provide it with sufficient funding (Czech Republic) and allocate more funding to the Ombudsman to allow for more aggressive prosecution of corruption cases (United States);

A - 18. Involve civil society organizations in the follow-up to this UPR (United Kingdom);

A - 19. Exhaustively conduct human rights education and awareness-raising activities to inform all citizens of their rights (Japan);

A - 20. Promote awareness-raising programmes on the importance of education of children and R- consider imposing adequate sanctions on parents who fail to send their children to school (Austria);

A - 21. Pursue the initiative to establish Child Desk Officers within the Department of Women's Affairs and intensify efforts to ensure access to free compulsory education for all children in the country (Czech Republic);

A - 22. Take efficient measures to combat corruption (Azerbaijan);

A - 23. Step up its cooperation with United Nations special procedures (Mexico);

A - 24. Continue to take the measures necessary to reduce discrimination against women, in particular on the job market and in national political life, where women are underrepresented, particularly through support for the efforts of the National Council for Women (France);

A - 25. Take necessary measures to ensure that discrimination on the basis of disability, economic status, sexual orientation or living with HIV/AIDS is prevented (Netherlands);

A - 26. Ensure the primacy of laws protecting the equality of women over customary practices that are contrary to such principles (Canada); Seek to address, as a matter of priority, any rules and customs that discriminate against women (United Kingdom); Put in place a comprehensive strategy (Turkey) and take all necessary measures to modify or eliminate cultural practices and stereotypes that discriminate against women (Azerbaijan, Turkey), including awareness-raising, as well as to ensure that in its family law both spouses have the same rights and responsibilities (Azerbaijan);

A - 27. Take appropriate measures and continue working towards improving conditions in prisons and detention centres (Australia); Review conditions in prison and detention facilities, in particular where juveniles are concerned (Czech Republic) and allow access to detention facilities to civil society organizations (Czech Republic);

A - 28. Support further human rights training for police, corrections and justice officials; Promote regular, independent monitoring of detention facilities and ensure that detainees have immediate and effective means of redress and protection when their rights are violated (New Zealand);

A - 29. Ensure a thorough and timely investigation by the Ministry of Justice and Social Welfare of the allegations in the detainee report and subsequently reform the practices of the Correctional Services officers and police forces as needed (United States);

A - 30. Adopt a proactive approach to implement any recommendations of the Government's commission of enquiry aimed at protecting the rights of detained persons (Canada);

A - 31. Strengthen the functioning of its judiciary and its human rights institutional framework and promote concrete programmes to raise awareness of human rights, in particular among judges and lawyers, but also among the general public (Czech Republic);

A - 32. Adopt further comprehensive measures to combat domestic violence, taking into account recommendations of United Nations human rights bodies in this regard (Netherlands); Adopt a "no drop" policy to ensure that all cases of domestic violence are properly investigated (Austria); Strengthen efforts to work across agencies and with non-governmental women's organizations to raise awareness that domestic violence is unacceptable, to educate women on their rights and to combat stereotypes and customary practices that perpetuate domestic violence (New Zealand);

A - 33. Ensure effective investigation into all allegations of torture or mistreatment (Czech Republic);

A - 34. Adopt comprehensive measures to address violence against women and enact legislation to ensure that such violence, including sexual abuse, constitutes a criminal offence (Azerbaijan); Consider stepping up measures to comprehensively address the problem of violence against women, including by increasing public awareness campaigns to sensitize the community on the issue (Malaysia);

A - 35. Within the context of the National Plan of Action for Women 2007-2011 and the Family Protection Act, consider raising public awareness to combat domestic violence and making legal aid available to all victims of such violence (Brazil);

A - 36. Take all measures to eradicate the practice of corporal punishment in the family and juvenile justice systems and to ensure effective implementation of the ban on this punishment in schools (Azerbaijan);

A - 37. Take further steps to ensure the independence of the judiciary (Azerbaijan); Further enhance the capacity, neutrality and independence of the judiciary (Germany);

A - 38. Amend the judicial rules so that the Ombudsman's reports are more easily admissible in court (United States);

A - 39. Pursue its efforts to further empower women and enhance their condition and participation in political life (Algeria);

A - 40. Proceed with its efforts to improve the health system, combat diseases, improve maternal health and reduce child mortality rates (Algeria); continue its efforts to reduce the maternal and child mortality rates (Azerbaijan); continue in its implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, with the necessary support of the international community, in order to reduce infant mortality rates, improve maternal health and strengthen the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and other illnesses (Morocco);

A - 41. Step up its efforts to ensure adequate access to quality basic health and education services, particularly for those living in isolated rural areas and for vulnerable groups (Azerbaijan); consider addressing the disparities in the delivery of and access to quality basic social services such as health, education, water and sanitation services (Malaysia); Continue to enhance access to basic health services, especially for children (Philippines);

A - 42. Pursue its efforts to guarantee access for all its children to free and compulsory primary education by enhancing the implementation of its national action plan for education for all (Algeria); take appropriate action to put into place free primary school education for all and to make primary education compulsory (Germany); continue its efforts in developing a policy on free primary education (Philippines);

A - 43. Promote more effective efforts to keep children in schools, particularly girls (France); enhance its education plan to improve women's attendance rate in secondary schools and provide quality secondary education in rural areas (Canada);

A - 44. Seek from the international community and the relevant United Nations agencies the technical and financial assistance needed to help the Government to overcome challenges and the constraints listed in paragraphs 98 to 107 of the national report (Algeria); enhance cooperation with other countries and organs and funds of the United Nations to increase the number of financial and technical programmes aimed at strengthening the capacity of Vanuatu in the area of human rights (Mexico);

A - 45. Make good use of technical assistance from OHCHR to accede to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture (Japan);

A - 46. Continue engaging members of the international donor community with a view to building capacity, particularly with regard to securing improvements in the economic and social rights situation of its population (Malaysia); request technical assistance from relevant United Nations agencies and programmes and conclude partnerships with other interested countries to improve the health system, combat diseases, improve maternal health and reduce child mortality rates (Algeria);

A - 47. Request the international community, led by the major industrialized economies, to help promote and protect human rights in Vanuatu by reducing greenhouse gas emissions to "safe" levels that are consistent with full enjoyment of human rights, and by funding adaptation measures to help it cope with those changes that are already taking place (Maldives); with the support and cooperation of

the international community, seek to build up its capacities to effectively respond to natural disasters and adapt to the challenges brought about by climate change (Philippines);

A - 48. With the objective of establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, ask for the assistance of OHCHR (Mexico); back up the commitment to establishing a national human rights institution by asking for the necessary technical assistance and support from the international community (Morocco).”

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