



**General Assembly**

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/HRC/12/14/Add.1  
24 September 2009

Original: ENGLISH

---

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
Twelfth session  
Agenda item 6

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review\***

**Vanuatu**

**Addendum**

**Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments  
and replies presented by the State under review**

---

\* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

## CONCLUSIONS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS

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:

<i>No.</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Response</i>
1	Continue fulfilling its obligations under international treaties as well as considering the possibility (Algeria) of acceding to the Convention against Torture (Algeria, Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, France, Japan) and its Optional Protocol (Azerbaijan, Czech Republic) and continue its efforts to bring about their prompt ratification (Mexico).	Acceptable
2	Within the spirit of the Durban Review Conference and Council resolution 9/12 on human rights goals (Brazil), consider (Algeria, Brazil) the ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Algeria, Brazil, Azerbaijan, France, Japan).	Vanuatu is not yet prepared to ratify the named Conventions. However, there is provision in the Constitution of the Republic of Vanuatu that provides for the protection against All Forms of Discrimination.
3	Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Azerbaijan, Japan, and The Netherlands).	Vanuatu is not yet prepared to ratify this Convention.
4	Ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption (The Netherlands).	Acceptable
5	Keep under consideration the possible ratification of the ICESCR, the ICERD and the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families (Mexico); Accede to the ICRMW (Azerbaijan).	Vanuatu is not yet prepared to ratify this Convention.
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 (CRC) with implementation (Slovenia).	Acceptable
7	Consider acceding to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (Italy).	Vanuatu is not yet prepared to ratify this Convention.
8	Take prompt action to implement the Family Protection Act (Australia); Continue its efforts to allocate sufficient resources to ensure its effective implementation (The Netherlands).	Acceptable
9	Continue to incorporate CEDAW principles into its domestic legislation (Canada); Review its domestic legislation (Azerbaijan)	Acceptable

<i>No.</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Response</i>
	<p>and take appropriate measures (Algeria) in order to bring it in full conformity with all human rights Conventions that Vanuatu is a party to, especially CEDAW (Algeria, Azerbaijan, Italy) and CRC (Azerbaijan) and to implement specific recommendations made by CEDAW in this regard (Azerbaijan), and referred to in paragraphs 4 and 14 of the OHCHR compilation (Algeria); Continue to act upon the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Italy). Undertake further actions to combat discrimination of women and to ensure equality for women on the ground, and in this regard take into account the recommendations of CEDAW (The Netherlands).</p>	
10	<p>Review all relevant legislation so as to eliminate all forms of discrimination or marginalization of women (Canada) and amend all laws which perpetuate discrimination and marginalization of women (Austria);</p>	Acceptable
11	<p>Pursue its efforts towards ensuring equal rights for men and women (Italy) and go beyond recognizing equality of women in its legislation and ensure that this equality is de facto recognized (Canada).</p>	Acceptable
12	<p>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).</p>	Acceptable
13	<p>Consider (Brazil) reviewing the legislation on minimum age for criminal responsibility (Azerbaijan, Brazil) with the purpose to bring it into full conformity with the CRC (Azerbaijan).</p>	Acceptable
14	<p>Strengthen its efforts to implement the ICRPD by amending the Constitution to prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities and support the role of disabled persons organizations (New Zealand).</p>	Acceptable
15	<p>That action be expedited to address the two issues contained in Paragraph 30(a) and (b) of the national report through the proposed amendment of the Representation of the People Act (Ghana).</p>	Acceptable
16	<p>Take forward and continue with its efforts to</p>	Acceptable

<i>No.</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Response</i>
	establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Mexico, United Kingdom) and consider (Maldives) establishing a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Azerbaijan; Germany).	
17	Continue strengthening the role of the Ombudsman's office, including its ability to follow up on the results of its investigations, and namely to 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).	Acceptable
18	Involve civil society organizations in the follow-up to the UPR review (UK).	Acceptable
19	Exhaustively conduct human rights education and awareness-raising activities to inform all citizens of their rights (Japan).	Acceptable
20	Promote awareness-raising programmes on the importance of education of children and consider applying adequate sanctions for parents who fail to send their children to school (Austria).	Acceptable for the promotion of awareness's and the provision of training programs. However, not acceptable for applying adequate sanctions for parents who fail to send their children to school.
21	Pursue the initiative to establish Child Desk Officers within the Department of Women's Affairs, and intensification of efforts to ensure access to free education compulsory for all children in the country (Czech Republic).	Acceptable
22	Take efficient measures to combat corruption (Azerbaijan).	Acceptable
23	Step up its cooperation with United Nations Special Procedures (Mexico).	Acceptable
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 Vanuatu's National Council for Women (France).	Acceptable
25	Take necessary measures to ensure that discrimination on the basis of disability, economic status, sexual orientation or living with HIV/AIDS is prevented (The Netherlands).	Acceptable

<i>No.</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Response</i>
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).	Acceptable
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).	Acceptable
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).	Acceptable
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 maybe needed (United States).	Acceptable
30	Adopt a proactive approach to implement any recommendations aimed at protecting the rights of detained persons (Canada).	Acceptable
31	Strengthen the functioning of its judiciary and its human rights institutional framework and promoting concrete programmes to raise awareness of human rights, in particular among judges and lawyers, but also among general public (Czech Republic).	Acceptable
32	Adopt further comprehensive measures to combat domestic violence, taking into account recommendations of UN human rights bodies in this regard (The Netherlands); Adopt a “no drop” policy to ensure that all	Acceptable

<i>No.</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Response</i>
	cases of domestic violence are properly investigated (Austria); Sstrengthen efforts to work across agencies and with women's NGOs, 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).	
33	Ensure effective investigation into all allegations of torture or mistreatment (Czech Republic).	Acceptable
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).	Acceptable
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 as well as make available legal aid to all victims of this violence (Brazil).	Acceptable
36	Take all measures to eradicate the practice of corporal punishment in family, juvenile justice systems and to ensure effective implementation of the ban of this punishment in schools (Azerbaijan).	Acceptable
37	Take further steps to ensure the independence of the judiciary (Azerbaijan); Further enhance the capacity, neutrality and independence of the judiciary (Germany).	Acceptable
38	Amend the judicial rules so that the Ombudsman's reports are more easily admissible in court (US).	Acceptable
39	Pursue its efforts in order to further empower women and enhance their condition and participation in political life (Algeria).	Acceptable
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	Acceptable

<i>No.</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Response</i>
	of MDGs, 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).	
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).	Acceptable
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 in order 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).	Acceptable
43	More effective promotion of 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).	Acceptable
44	That the international community and the relevant UN agencies provide Vanuatu with the needed technical and financial assistance in order 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).	Acceptable
45	Make good use of technical assistance from the OHCHR to accede to the ICESCR, the ICERD and the CAT (Japan).	Acceptable
46	Continue engaging members of the international donor community with a view to	Acceptable

<i>No.</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Response</i>
	building capacity, particularly with regard to securing improvements in the economic and social rights situation of its population (Malaysia); Request technical assistance of relevant UN agencies and programs and the conclusion of partnerships with other interested countries to improve the health system, combat diseases, improve maternal health and reduce child mortality rates (Algeria).	
47	That the international community, led by the major industrialised economies, 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 Vanuatu 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).	Acceptable
48	With the objective of establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles in mind, ask for the assistance of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (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).	Acceptable

-----