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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Russian Federation

Addendum

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

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



1. The Russian Federation reaffirms its commitment to the universal periodic review procedure, which provides a unique opportunity to share positive experiences and lessons learned in the promotion and protection of human rights. In the view of the Russian Federation, the effectiveness of the universal periodic review is guaranteed by the voluntary cooperation of States, depoliticized and constructive dialogue, support for national human rights efforts and such principles as objectivity and universality.
2. The State authorities of the Russian Federation have studied the 360 recommendations received during the forty-fourth session of the United Nations Human Rights Council's Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review.
3. The replies of the Russian Federation regarding the nature of these recommendations are summarized below and organized according to thematic clusters. The positions of the Russian authorities on the relevant recommendations are contained in the annex to this document.
4. The Russian Federation accepted a total of 167 recommendations. This category includes recommendations whose content is supported by the Russian authorities and also recommendations that have already been implemented in practice or that are in the process of being implemented.
5. The Russian Federation partially accepted 35 recommendations. This group includes recommendations that cannot be fully supported because some of their content cannot be implemented for various reasons.
6. The Russian Federation did not accept 158 recommendations, most of which duplicate one another. These recommendations cannot be supported by the Russian authorities due to their inconsistency with the provisions of the legislation in force, with the practices of law enforcement and with the main directions of State policy in the relevant areas, as well as their inclusion of false or incorrect assertions.
7. The Russian Federation categorically rejects the recommendations that are not in keeping with the norms of the country's Constitution, including language relating to the foundations of the country's constitutional order and its territorial integrity. The recommendations relating to the special military operation and the situation in Ukraine were also altogether rejected, as they are irrelevant to the principles and objectives of the universal periodic review. Furthermore, Russia strongly rejects the recommendations concerning Abkhazia and South Ossetia, as those territories are not under Russian jurisdiction and the human rights situation in those territories cannot be discussed under the universal periodic review procedure for the Russian Federation.

International human rights commitments

8. The Russian Federation accepted 7 recommendations (35.4, 35.7, 35.11, 35.12, 35.14, 35.18, 35.23) and did not accept 15 (35.1, 35.2, 35.3, 35.5, 35.6, 35.8, 35.9, 35.10, 35.13, 35.15, 35.16, 35.17, 35.19, 35.20, 35.21). Russia, as a party to most of the comprehensive international human rights treaties, intends to continue to explore the possibility of further expanding the scope of its international obligations in the promotion and protection of human rights. The corresponding decisions will be taken on the basis of a comprehensive analysis of the current situation, including the existence of the full range of the factors and conditions required for participation in international treaties.

Legislative and institutional safeguarding of human rights

9. The Russian Federation accepted 23 recommendations (35.62, 35.71, 35.73, 35.74, 35.75, 35.79, 35.80, 35.81, 35.82, 35.83, 35.84, 35.85, 35.88, 35.91, 35.92, 35.93, 35.94, 35.95, 35.134, 35.168, 35.280, 35.281, 35.282) and did not accept 4 (35.22, 35.77, 35.89, 35.90). Work is constantly carried out in Russia to improve the legal and regulatory framework, including for the promotion and protection of human rights.

International cooperation in the area of human rights

10. The Russian Federation accepted 22 recommendations (35.45, 35.46, 35.47, 35.48, 35.49, 35.50, 35.51, 35.52, 35.53, 35.54, 35.55, 35.56, 35.57, 35.58, 35.59, 35.60, 35.61, 35.174, 35.175, 35.176, 35.177, 35.279), partially accepted 14 (35.24, 35.25, 35.26, 35.27, 35.28, 35.29, 35.30, 35.31, 35.32, 35.33, 35.36, 35.37, 35.38, 35.41) and did not accept 21 (35.34, 35.35, 35.39, 35.40, 35.42, 35.43, 35.44, 35.163, 35.181, 35.182, 35.183, 35.184, 35.185, 35.186, 35.187, 35.188, 35.189, 35.190, 35.191, 35.192, 35.304). Russia is committed to constructive and equal cooperation for the defence of human rights within the framework of multilateral intergovernmental structures and also interacts with human rights mechanisms within the framework of their mandates. At the same time, the Russian Federation rejects the recommendations concerning the implementation of the decisions of the International Court of Justice of the United Nations, as they fall outside the mandate of the United Nations Human Rights Council and the universal periodic review procedure that functions within the Council's framework. Russia also categorically rejects the recommendations regarding the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights. The Russian Federation ceased to be a member of the Council of Europe in March 2022 and under the same conditions ceased to be a party to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Thus, Russia has withdrawn from the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights and, in accordance with the provisions of the federal laws adopted in 2022, does not execute its judgments that entered into force after 15 March 2022. Since 1 January 2023, the Russian law on payment of compensation under the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights has ceased to be in force.

Equality and freedom from discrimination

11. The Russian Federation accepted 6 recommendations (35.98, 35.262, 35.288, 35.289, 35.293, 35.294), partially accepted 2 (35.263, 35.287) and did not accept 11 (35.69, 35.96, 35.295, 35.343, 35.344, 35.346, 35.348, 35.350, 35.351, 35.352, 35.353). In Russia, all forms of restriction of the rights of citizens on the grounds of social, racial, sexual, ethnic, linguistic, religious or any other affiliation are prohibited. The principle of equal treatment is the very basis of human rights. Any actions of a discriminatory nature, irrespective of which social or other groups they are committed against, elicit an appropriate response from the authorities and from the law enforcement agencies.

Promoting tolerance countering racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

12. The Russian Federation accepted 2 recommendations (35.97, 35.358) and did not accept 5 (35.345, 35.354, 35.355, 35.356, 35.357). In Russia, special attention is paid to developing an inter-ethnic and interreligious dialogue aimed at promoting mutual respect and understanding. At the State level, work has continued in order to combat hate crimes.

Protecting socially vulnerable groups

13. The Russian Federation accepted 30 recommendations (35.72, 35.271, 35.273, 35.274, 35.276, 35.277, 35.290, 35.315, 35.316, 35.317, 35.318, 35.319, 35.320, 35.321, 35.322, 35.323, 35.324, 35.325, 35.326, 35.327, 35.328, 35.329, 35.330, 35.331, 35.332, 35.333, 35.334, 35.335, 35.337, 35.338), partially accepted 1 (35.283) and did not accept 1 (35.336). The protection of socially vulnerable groups, in particular older persons and persons with disabilities, including children, continues to be an important priority of the country's socioeconomic policy aimed at raising living standards and creating favourable conditions for the comprehensive development of the individual.

Right to life, liberty and security of person combating human trafficking

14. The Russian Federation accepted 2 recommendations (35.260, 35.261), partially accepted 4 (35.86, 35.87, 35.133, 35.193) and did not accept 26 (35.99, 35.131, 35.132, 35.135, 35.136, 35.137, 35.138, 35.139, 35.140, 35.141, 35.142, 35.143, 35.144, 35.145, 35.146, 35.147, 35.148, 35.149, 35.150, 35.151, 35.152, 35.153, 35.154, 35.165, 35.166, 35.167). Russia considers measures to ensure the right to life, liberty and security of person as an important component of the system for the promotion and protection of human rights. Russia has a legal regime for the non-application of the death penalty that is more restrictive than the international one. It is based on the position of the Constitutional Court that a lengthy moratorium on the death penalty has resulted in sustainable guarantees of the human right not to be subjected to this type of punishment. A return to the application of the death penalty in Russia is thus excluded. The Russian Federation also categorically rejects all recommendations concerning the protection of human rights in connection with the special military operation and the situation in Ukraine as being irrelevant to the principles and objectives of the universal periodic review as set out in the annex to the resolution on institution-building of the United Nations Human Rights Council. Russia strongly rejects the recommendations concerning Abkhazia and South Ossetia, as those territories are not under Russian jurisdiction and the human rights situation in those territories cannot be discussed under the universal periodic review procedure for the Russian Federation.

Countering violence, including violence against women

15. The Russian Federation accepted 11 recommendations (35.70, 35.258, 35.296, 35.297, 35.298, 35.299, 35.300, 35.301, 35.303, 35.305, 35.306), partially accepted 1 (35.302) and did not accept 7 (35.63, 35.64, 35.65, 35.66, 35.67, 35.241, 35.242). Russia will continue to improve measures to prevent and counter violence, including against women, and to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.

Rights of the child

16. The Russian Federation accepted 8 recommendations (35.259, 35.278, 35.307, 35.309, 35.310, 35.312, 35.313, 35.314), partially accepted 1 (35.311) and did not accept 9 (35.155, 35.156, 35.157, 35.158, 35.159, 35.160, 35.161, 35.162, 35.308). As a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Russia pays special attention to the protection of motherhood and childhood, the creation of favourable conditions for the growth, intellectual development and education of children and the preservation of children's mental and physical health. At the same time, the Russian Federation categorically rejects the recommendations regarding the protection of children's rights in the context of the special military operation as contrary to the principles and objectives of the universal periodic review, as set out in the annex to the resolution on institution-building of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Administration of justice and the judicial system

17. The Russian Federation accepted 5 recommendations (35.169, 35.170, 35.171, 35.172, 35.173) and did not accept 3 (35.178, 35.179, 35.180). Russia attaches a great deal of importance to ensuring access to justice and the functioning of an independent judiciary. In the view of the Russian Federation, the recommendations concerning the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law have already been implemented. In addition, steps are being taken to further strengthen the independence of the judiciary.

Prison system. Law enforcement

18. The Russian Federation accepted 14 recommendations (35.76, 35.78, 35.120, 35.122, 35.123, 35.124, 35.125, 35.126, 35.127, 35.128, 35.129, 35.130, 35.291, 35.292), partially

accepted 2 (35.109, 35.121) and did not accept 1 (35.68). Russia will continue to work to improve the prison system and conditions of detention for persons under investigation and serving sentences.

Civil and political rights, civil society institutions and journalists

19. The Russian Federation accepted 7 recommendations (35.195, 35.196, 35.198, 35.200, 35.218, 35.219, 35.239), partially accepted 9 (35.104, 35.105, 35.194, 35.197, 35.204, 35.210, 35.220, 35.221, 35.236) and did not accept 53 (35.100, 35.101, 35.102, 35.103, 35.106, 35.107, 35.108, 35.110, 35.111, 35.112, 35.113, 35.114, 35.115, 35.116, 35.117, 35.118, 35.119, 35.164, 35.199, 35.201, 35.202, 35.203, 35.205, 35.206, 35.207, 35.208, 35.209, 35.211, 35.212, 35.213, 35.214, 35.215, 35.216, 35.217, 35.222, 35.223, 35.224, 35.225, 35.226, 35.227, 35.228, 35.229, 35.230, 35.231, 35.232, 35.233, 35.234, 35.235, 35.237, 35.238, 35.240, 35.347, 35.349). Russia is committed to fulfilling its obligations to promote civil and political rights and to create the conditions for the development of civil society and for interaction between State structures and non-governmental organizations within the framework of the national legislation in force. At the same time, the Russian Federation strongly rejects the recommendations regarding a need to amend the normative acts regulating these legal relations. In particular, Russia does not accept the recommendations concerning the repeal of the legislation on foreign agents and undesirable organizations, as the legislation contains no unlawful restrictions on the rights of civil society representatives and it would be inappropriate to revise it at this time. In addition, Russia rejects the recommendations concerning restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association in Russia and the persecution of opposition representatives, journalists and human rights defenders, as these recommendations are based on false or incorrect assertions and do not correspond with the legal provisions, law enforcement practice and the main directions of State policy in the relevant areas. The recommendations demanding the release of persons detained in accordance with Russian law and/or held in custody under a court order are essentially an attempt to interfere with the administration of justice and have therefore also been rejected.

Ensuring economic, social and cultural rights

20. The Russian Federation accepted 27 recommendations (35.243, 35.244, 35.245, 35.246, 35.247, 35.248, 35.249, 35.250, 35.251, 35.252, 35.253, 35.254, 35.255, 35.256, 35.257, 35.264, 35.265, 35.266, 35.267, 35.268, 35.269, 35.270, 35.272, 35.275, 35.284, 35.285, 35.286). Russia is a socially oriented State that will continue to increase its efforts to ensure the economic, social and cultural rights of the population.

Rights of ethnic minority groups and indigenous groups

21. The Russian Federation accepted 1 recommendation (35.342), partially accepted 1 (35.339) and did not accept 2 (35.340, 35.341). Russia attaches importance to ensuring the rights of all peoples and ethnic groups living in its territory, including ethnic minorities and numerically small indigenous peoples.

Rights of migrants

22. The Russian Federation accepted 2 recommendations (35.359, 35.360). Russia will continue to implement measures aimed at the adaptation and integration of migrants.