THE SDGs AND HUMAN RIGHTS
STATUS OF UPR RECOMMENDATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES

Accepted UPR Recommendations: An Opportunity for Action and Engagement

A state has a responsibility to implement all recommendations it has accepted before the Human Rights Council as a demonstration of their commitment to protecting and promoting Human Rights. Following the last Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in January 2013 and in preparation for the next review scheduled for January 2018, the UAE has accepted to implement several UPR recommendations. Below is a selection of supported UPR recommendations aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).[1]

1. Continue its efforts in the area of the right to education, and in allocating the necessary resources to promote this right and improve the quality of education. Continue efforts to spread the culture of human rights through educational curriculums and the media.

2. Continue its efforts in the field of women participation in high level positions of decision-making and in all areas of society. Implement further measures to support victims of domestic violence.

3. Bolster its practical capacity to oversee the working and living conditions of foreign workers. Continue to support initiatives, programmes and funds aiming at supporting youth projects in order to enhance the enjoyment of economic rights and provide job opportunities. Continue with efforts to provide more protection to domestic workers and improve their living conditions.

4. Further improve her policies and follow-up measures to foster justice, equality, tolerance as well as the full guarantee of human rights for the vulnerable groups, in particular women and foreign workers.

5. Respect the right to freedom of expression and association, and make the minimum use of criminal proceedings against persons availing themselves of those rights. Continue its ongoing review of national laws to ensure that they are in line with its international human rights law obligations. Establish an independent NHRI with a solid mandate and in accordance with the Paris Principles. Reduce the number of crimes where the death penalty can be imposed. Continue intensifying efforts to combat all cases of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and launch the National Verification Mechanism that allows to bring complaints before the judiciary.

6. Continue to intensify cooperation with civil society organisations in order to debate on human rights issues and coordinate their follow-up and implementation on the ground. Organise regional and international conferences in cooperation with international and regional human rights organisations in order to exchange views, best practices and experiences in strengthening a human rights culture.