



General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 February 2019

English
Original: Spanish

Human Rights Council

Fortieth session
25 February–22 March 2019
Agenda item 6
Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Mexico

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or 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.



1. One of the mainstays of the new, transformative foreign policy of the Government of Mexico is the promotion of a fair and prosperous society that is respectful of human rights. This implies a commitment to remaining open to scrutiny and collaborating with international agencies, while defending and observing human rights at the national level.
2. The universal periodic review is a valuable tool for identifying the progress made with regard to human rights, as well as the main challenges the country faces. In this regard, Mexico reiterates its commitment to the universal system, and to the Human Rights Council in particular, with a view to enhancing the international standards that guarantee that every individual may fully exercise his or her rights.
3. As part of this important exercise in collaboration with, and accountability to, the international community, Mexico reiterates its conviction that multilateralism is the best way to address global human rights challenges and to intensify efforts to monitor and bolster the legal, institutional and public policy framework.
4. After the third review cycle, the Government of Mexico canvassed widely among the departments and competent bodies of the federal administration, the legislature and the judiciary, seeking their views on the 264 recommendations received.
5. As a result of this consultation, all the States' recommendations to Mexico were deemed acceptable, bar two, of which Mexico will only take note:
 - (a) Recommendation 5, to ratify the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute: the Government of Mexico has not finished consultations on the subject and needs more time to make a decision;
 - (b) Recommendation 62, to respect and defend life from conception to natural death, based on amendments to state constitutions, promoting similar protection at the federal and local levels. As stated at the end of the second review cycle, Mexico cannot accept a recommendation that, at both the federal and the state levels, is incompatible with the constitutional framework and criminal legislation governing the termination of pregnancy without criminal liability in various situations, and notably in cases of rape. Furthermore, the Supreme Court holds that denying a rape victim the possibility of terminating the pregnancy would constitute a violation of her human rights, and that the lawful termination of a pregnancy resulting from rape must be treated by clinics as an emergency (*amparo* appeals Nos. 601/2017 and 1170/2017).
6. The Government of Mexico, in coordination with the three branches and levels of Government and with civil society organizations and academia, is committed to addressing, in a timely manner, the 262 accepted recommendations by promoting the appropriate legal and structural changes, and adopting the necessary public policies in order to create the conditions for the full and untrammelled respect for human rights.
7. As part of this commitment, Mexico has developed an electronic platform containing more than 2,800 recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms since 1994. An exercise in proactive transparency, the purpose of the platform is to place at the disposal of the public information on the action taken by the State of Mexico in response to each recommendation.
8. The project will enable the public sector, academia, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to access the information and to ascertain the progress made, as well as the issues that require further consideration or improvement.
9. The Mexican Government is aware of the country's ongoing challenges and is determined to take the necessary steps to guarantee the rule of law, based on a model that promotes the prevention of violence and the strengthening of institutions, the protection of human rights defenders and journalists, as well as the elimination of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. We will work in a coordinated manner to eradicate the scourges besetting our society such as human trafficking and disappearances. Furthermore, the fight against corruption and impunity will be key elements of public policies and legislative reforms, with a view to guaranteeing the effective development and well-being of the population.

10. The authorities will also endeavour to provide special assistance to vulnerable groups including children and adolescents, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and communities, persons of African descent, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. They will also seek to provide assistance and services to persons of more limited means, reflecting a firm commitment to combating poverty.

11. Mexico will continue to develop and implement the highest international standards with regard to the human rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. It will also strive to achieve the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the global compact on refugees.

12. Likewise, one of the main priorities of the Government of Mexico is to mainstream the gender perspective across the board, and eliminate violence against women and girls.

13. The Mexican Government is in no doubt that a society can only thrive if all its members fully enjoy their fundamental rights, have equal opportunities on equal terms and are able to live a life that is free from violence.
