

Model letter/email to the state under review before adoption of the outcome report to encourage support for recommendations taken under consideration

Purpose: to encourage the state under review to support those recommendations currently under consideration that your organization considers most important. The letter should be sent as soon as possible after the UPR Working Group session (and well before the adoption by the Human Rights Council of the outcome of the review, which usually takes place about four months later).

Addressee: This letter should be sent to the ministry that leads on the UPR (in most cases either the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Ministry of Justice). It is useful to send a copy to the country's UN mission in Geneva (contact details can be found here: <https://www.ungeneva.org/en/blue-book/missions/member-states>) and to the embassies of the states in the state under review, whose recommendations are referred to in the letter. A model letter to send to embassies with copies of the letter to the state under review can be found here: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/ior405795/2022/en/>

Text highlighted in yellow and within brackets should be replaced or amended with the appropriate information. Text highlighted in green at the start of the optional third paragraph should be deleted.

***** REMEMBER TO DELETE THIS BOX *****

Dear [name of minister],

I write with regard to your country's recent consideration under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council (HRC). [Name of your civil society organization] welcomes your government's cooperation with the review process, [add or delete as relevant: including the submission of your national report, efforts to hold national consultations in the lead up to the review, and your responses to many of the issues raised by States in the UPR Working Group review].

We note that you have indicated that you will consider [a number of/all of] the recommendations between now and the adoption by the HRC of the review outcome at its [xxth] session in [month year] in order to determine which of the recommendations enjoy your support. We consider of particular importance the recommendations to [list the key recommendations and explain why they are of particular importance. You can draw on language from your shadow report].¹ We urge you to indicate your full support of these recommendations and commitment to ensure their full and prompt implementation.

[if the state has already said that it is noting (rejecting) important recommendations, you can also add the following paragraph:] We deeply regret that [country] has noted the recommendations to [list the issues covered by recommendations rejected by the government that you would like to see implemented].² [Country's] noting of these recommendations

¹ [add reference to the relevant recommendations from the draft outcome document]

² [as above]

leaves an important gap in its efforts to ensure compliance with its human rights obligations and commitments – the very objective of the UPR process. We urge you to reconsider these recommendations with a view to supporting them in the future.

Finally, we encourage you to submit an Addendum to the report of the outcome of the review in which [country]'s position on each of the recommendations is clearly indicated. In order to ensure an informed formal adoption by the HRC of the review of [country], the Addendum should be available well in advance of the [xxth] session, and no later than two weeks before.

A copy of this letter has also been sent to your Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva as well as to states that made the recommendations we refer to above.

I would be grateful to receive your views on the issues raised in this letter.

Yours sincerely,

c.c. Permanent mission of [country] to the UN in Geneva