



UN Human Rights Council – 50th regular session

Item 6: UPR outcome of Uganda

Oral statement

Delivered by: Robert Kirenga

Mr. President,

We welcome the Ugandan government's participation in the UPR process and engagement with civil society ahead of its review.

I wish to extend my appreciation to Ugandan civil society organisations that engaged in the process at the national level. The National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders – Uganda ([NCHRD-U](#)) hosted and coordinated the [National CSO Stakeholders' Forum](#) on the UPR of Uganda for the third cycle. With the support of partners, including DefendDefenders, we enhanced knowledge of, and civil society participation in, the UPR process. We organised and made reports on 22 human rights clusters. Ugandan civil society massively invested in the UPR process.

We commit to ensuring follow up. We hope that the government will reconsider, among others, recommendation no. 125.67, offered by Malawi, to develop an implementation plan for the systematic implementation of UPR recommendations.

Mr. President,

We welcome Uganda's acceptance of recommendations to domesticate ratified international instruments, ratify ILO Convention no. 189, and implement the national action plan on business and human rights. We regret, however, that Uganda did not commit to ratify additional instruments, as recommended by Ghana (no. 125.3), Mauritius (no. 125.4), Mali (no. 125.10), Iceland (no. 125.16), or Paraguay (no. 125.17). Uganda's refusal to ratify the 1962 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness is disappointing, given Uganda's open-door policy and its status as a host country for refugees in East Africa and the Great Lakes region.

We regret that the government noted recommendations on excessive use of force by security forces and the need to combat impunity (no. 125.96 to 125.105 and 125.120 to 125.122).

We also regret that recommendations referring to freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly, and association (no. 125.129 to 125.144, among others) were noted.

We call on the government to reconsider its position on the 16 recommendations specifically referring to civic space and human rights defenders (no. 125.59, 125.105, 125.131, 125.136 to 125.143, 125.147 to 125.151), which it noted. These recommendations were offered by states from all regional groups, from Africa to Latin America, Eastern Europe, Asia-Pacific, and Western states.

Overall, Uganda's acceptance rate of the recommendations it received during its third review is low, at 51% (139 out of 273).

I thank you for your attention.