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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Norway

Addendum

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

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



The Norwegian Government welcomes the recommendations received during the fourth periodic review on 4 November 2024. Norway is pleased to provide our response to the 285¹ recommendations. The Government accepts 184 of them, partially accept 20 and notes 81 of them. An annex (table) on the various recommendations and the Government's response is attached to this Addendum.

Legal and institutional framework

1–14 Noted²

Regarding *CRMW*, the convention vaguely reiterates provisions from other conventions that Norway has ratified, including other UN human rights conventions and ILO's core conventions on workers' right.

Regarding *CRPD* and *ICESCR*, the Government concluded in a white paper in 2016 that it would not become a party to the individual communications mechanisms. A broad majority in the Parliament supported this in 2017.

The Parliament voted not to ratify the third Optional Protocol to the *CRC* in 2022. The Government aims to ensure children's opportunity to complain and has implemented measures to improve information about the right to complain and the options available to them.

15 Partially accepted³

The ratification is on the condition of the Parliament's consent.

16 Noted⁴

In 2018 the Government, by the request of the Parliament, conducted a review of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which concluded that Norway should not join the Treaty. The Government's conclusion was supported by the Parliament in February 2019.

17–21 Accepted⁵

22 Accepted⁶

Both the *ICESCR* and the *ICCPR* are already incorporated into the Human Rights Act, and take precedence in case of conflict with other legislation.

Cooperation

23 Accepted⁷

24–26 Noted⁸

It is still the Government's view that reporting and the follow-up and implementation of recommendations is best dealt with as an integrated part of the responsible ministries daily work.

Measures to combat discrimination, hate speech and other crimes, xenophobia, racism, islamophobia and anti-semitism

27–30 Accepted⁹

31 Noted¹⁰

The Penal Code and the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Act already contain a comprehensive set of provisions directed at hate crimes, and racial discrimination. Reference is made to Norway's common core document paragraph 177–179, 184–185 and 188.

32–36 Accepted¹¹

37 Partially accepted¹²

See Annex for more details on what is accepted and noted.

38–44 **Accepted**¹³

45 **Partially accepted**¹⁴

See Annex for more details on what is accepted and noted.

46 **Accepted**¹⁵

47 **Partially accepted**¹⁶

See Annex for more details on what is accepted and noted.

48–60 **Accepted**¹⁷

61 **Noted**¹⁸

Norway has joined consensus on the adoption of the IHRA-definition and the IHRA-definition is referred to in the new action plan to combat anti-Semitism. Norway will not have a process to adopt the definition.

62–67 **Accepted**¹⁹

Equal pay for equal work, strengthening equality and gender-equality incl. on the labour market

68–72 **Accepted**²⁰

73–74 **Accepted**²¹

Continuously implementing.

75 **Partially accepted**²²

See Annex for more details on what is accepted and noted.

76–83 **Accepted**²³

Right to health care incl. mental health, and the use of coercion

84–87 **Accepted**²⁴

Mental health care in prison, incl. during solitary confinement

88–89 **Accepted**²⁵

90–94 **Noted**²⁶

The recommendations received under UPR will be considered in conjunction with other legislative amendments in the Execution of Sentences Act.

Protecting right to private life, family and children's rights incl. safe childhood

95–97 **Accepted**²⁷

98 **Partially accepted**²⁸

See Annex for more details on what is accepted and noted.

99–106 **Accepted**²⁹

107 **Partially accepted**³⁰

See Annex for more details on what is accepted and noted.

108–116 **Accepted**³¹

117 **Partially accepted**³²

See Annex for more details on what is accepted and noted.

118 **Partially accepted** (and implemented)³³

See Annex for more details on what is accepted and noted.

119 **Accepted**³⁴

120 **Noted**³⁵

See no. 107.

121–124 **Accepted**³⁶

125 **Noted**³⁷

The premise for the recommendation is unknown.

126–130 **Accepted**³⁸

Right to health care, sexual and reproductive health

131 **Accepted**³⁹

132 **Partially accepted**⁴⁰

See Annex for more details on what is accepted and noted.

133 **Noted**⁴¹

A public national study which examines various options for recognizing a possible third legal gender category finds that a full implementation of a third legal gender category includes i.e, the creation of a third gender category in the population register. This cannot be introduced until a new system for registering legal gender is in place in 2032. A full implementation will also require all legislation that uses gender-specific terminology to be reviewed to assess the need for changes.

134 **Noted**⁴²

In the period 2016-2020, Norway implemented an Action Plan on Psychoactive Substances⁴³. The allocations to municipal health and care services aimed at the target group, specialized substance use treatment and NGO's had been strengthened by more than NOK 2.4 billion. Investments and measures have been implemented continuously after 2021. In October 2024 the Government launched a White Paper to the Parliament⁴⁴. This document, together with the National Strategy on Alcohol, serves as the overall guiding strategic document concerning psychoactive substances, including alcohol, addictive drugs for nonmedical use, illicit substances, and doping agents.

Right to education

135–139 **Accepted**⁴⁵

140 **Noted**⁴⁶

20 hours/week pre-primary education is free for children 2-6 years of age in low-income families. See no. 141-143.

141–143 **Noted**⁴⁷

Children in Norway have a statutory right to pre-primary education in early childhood care and education from 1 years of age. Participation in pre-primary education is 97.5 per cent for 5-year-olds. 93.8 per cent of children aged 1-5 years of age participate in pre-primary

education (early childhood care and education). See also no. 140. Primary and secondary education is free of charge.

144 Noted⁴⁸

Under international law Norway is obliged to allow parents to choose schools other than public schools if this is necessary based on the parents' religious or philosophical convictions. However, Norway is not obliged to contribute financially, or in any other way, to the operation of such schools. Norway's obligations with regard to primary schools have been fulfilled through the Education Act⁴⁹ on primary school education and secondary education. On this basis, the Independent Schools Act is not in conflict with Norway's obligations under international law.

145–146 Accepted⁵⁰

Protecting climate and human rights

147 Noted⁵¹

Reference is made to Norway's national report para. 149.

148 Accepted⁵²

149 Noted⁵³

The Paris Agreement is arranged so that each country is accountable for emissions from its own territory and its economic zone. Our climate policy is based on this. Norway is working on reducing the emissions from the production of oil and gas. Emissions from the oil and gas production are declining and are on average already significantly lower compared to most other petroleum producing countries. Norway is committed to conducting a responsible, predictable petroleum policy in its encounter with climate change challenges. Norway's oil and gas industry is subject to stringent climate and environmental requirements with a high price for greenhouse gas emissions.

150 Accepted⁵⁴

151 Noted⁵⁵

See no.150 and Norway's national report para. 149.

152 Accepted⁵⁶

153 Partially accepted⁵⁷

See Annex for more details on what is accepted and noted.

154-155 Accepted⁵⁸

156 Noted⁵⁹

The Government intends to deliver on the financial pledges we made in Glasgow to double our climate finance by 2026 to NOK 14 billion, and as part of this to at least triple our adaptation finance. Norwegian climate finance totalled around NOK 16.6 billion in 2023, approximately NOK 2.5 billion over our target.

157 Accepted⁶⁰

Development aid, business and protecting human rights

158-163 Accepted⁶¹

164 Noted⁶²

Companies accountable of their impact are partly covered by the Norwegian Transparency Act. There is an ongoing process on evaluating the adoption of CSDDD in Norway, as well as revising the Transparency Act to possibly include environmental rights.

As a guarantee of judicial and prosecutorial independence, the government does not instruct these authorities in the matter of training and topics. Lawyers are required to attend 48 hours of continuous training in legal topics within three consecutive years. It is up to each lawyer to decide the topic of the courses or classes.

165 **Noted**⁶³

Norway participated in the recent negotiation meetings and will continue to do so. However, a more active participation would require a revision of the national mandate.

166 **Noted**⁶⁴

Norway does not adopt unilateral sanctions. Norwegian sanctions are either UN sanctions or based on EU sanctions. Norway is obliged by international law to implement sanctions decided by the United Nations Security Council. Norway also has a long tradition of aligning with EU sanctions, after a concrete political assessment in each case. Such sanctions are not unilateral sanctions/ unilateral coercive measures.

167 **Accepted**⁶⁵

Education and capacity-building for the judiciary and law enforcement

168 **Noted**⁶⁶

See no. 164 and 169.

169 **Noted**⁶⁷

See no. 164 and 168.

170–171 **Accepted**⁶⁸

Protection from excessive use of force, sexual violence and abuse and gender-based violence against women and girls

172–175 **Accepted**⁶⁹

176 **Noted**⁷⁰

The Criminal Law Commission suggested that the Penal Code are amended to better safeguard sexual autonomy. While assessing the commission's proposal the Government will consider the recommendation received under the UPR. The Government is committed to as soon as possible propose legislative amendments to ensure that engaging in non-consensual acts of a sexual nature is punishable by effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions, taking into account the offences seriousness.

177 **Noted**⁷¹

See no. 176.

178–199 **Accepted**⁷²

Combating trafficking and other serious crimes

200–202 **Accepted**⁷³

203–204 **Partially accepted**⁷⁴

See Annex for more details on what is accepted and noted.

205–208 **Accepted**⁷⁵

Protecting the rights of older persons

209 **Noted**⁷⁶

Norway has established national guidelines for systematic nutritional care for individuals in nursing homes. Additionally, national quality indicators have been developed to measure the extent to which these guidelines are followed

210 **Noted**⁷⁷

National strategy for promoting good nutrition and dietary habits among elderly individuals in nursing homes and those receiving home care was presented in 2021.

211–213 **Accepted**⁷⁸

Protecting the rights of persons with disabilities

214 **Accepted**⁷⁹

215 **Noted**⁸⁰

Persons with disabilities have full legal capacity on an equal basis with others. However, it follows from Norway's interpretative declaration to the CRPD that it is Norway's view that the Convention allows for restriction of legal capacity in cases where such measures are necessary, as a last resort and subject to safeguards. The Guardianship Act does not allow for restriction of legal capacity based on disability alone. See 218.

216–217 **Accepted**⁸¹

218 **Noted**⁸²

No one can be deprived of their legal capacity solely on the basis of a disability. A restriction of legal capacity is a protective measure that can only be decided by the court, where such a measure is absolutely necessary and as a last resort. The capacity in strictly personal matters always remain with the person, who is always entitled to act in a court case regarding their own legal capacity. A comprehensive review of the Guardianship Act is ongoing, to further strengthen the rules on legal capacity and the principles of non-discrimination and self-determination.

219 **Accepted**⁸³

See no. 215 and 218.

220–222 **Accepted**⁸⁴

Protecting the rights of indigenous people and national minorities

223–225 **Accepted**⁸⁵

226 **Noted**⁸⁶

There are no plans to introduce mandatory education, but to continuously build competence and offer training. Training and competence apply to *the duty to consult* where FPIC is the aim with the process, not a standalone right as the main rule.

227 **Partially accepted**⁸⁷

See Annex for more details on what is accepted and noted. See no. 231.

228 **Accepted**⁸⁸

229 **Noted**⁸⁹

The Government is assessing recommendations by reviewing the Minerals Act and proposing changes in the legislation. An independent committee proposed in 2022 a considerable modernization of the Act. The process is not yet concluded, but while

proceeding with the reviewing process the Government have consulted several Sami stakeholders, including the Sámediggi.

The government will consult and cooperate in accordance with the rules of consultation in the Sami Act, which implies the duty to consult *in order to* obtain their free and informed consent.

230 **Accepted**⁹⁰

231 **Noted**⁹¹

The right to consultations in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent is integrated into Norwegian legislation (the Sami Act) according to international law, but not as a standalone right. Under the Human Rights Act such consent is a requirement in cases where the rights of the right holders would otherwise be breached. See no. 227.

232 **Noted**⁹²

See no. 229.

233–234 **Accepted**⁹³

235 **Partially accepted**⁹⁴

See Annex for more details on what is accepted and noted.

236 **Partially accepted**⁹⁵

See Annex for more details on what is accepted and noted.

237–238 **Accepted**⁹⁶

Immigration and asylum policy, incl. integration

239 **Accepted**⁹⁷

Vulnerable groups are continuously given specific attention

240–241 **Accepted**⁹⁸

242 **Accepted**⁹⁹

It is an ongoing process.

243 **Accepted**¹⁰⁰

244 **Accepted**¹⁰¹

The law is considered to protect these groups; however, this is a continuous process.

245 **Partially accepted**¹⁰²

See Annex for more details on what is accepted and noted.

246 **Partially accepted**¹⁰³

See Annex for more details on what is accepted and noted.

247–248 **Accepted**¹⁰⁴

See no. 246 and 253.

249 **Noted**¹⁰⁵

Unaccompanied minors under age 15 are normally offered accommodation in *care* centres. However, if the minors arrive together with an accompanying adult, they will in most cases be offered accommodation together in *reception* centres. As a measure to improve the conditions for this group, the UDI has started to place unaccompanied minors living with accompanying adults together in preselected reception centres with increased staff.

250 **Accepted**¹⁰⁶

251 **Noted**¹⁰⁷

Norway continuously works to ensure efficient asylum procedures. Unaccompanied minors are given priority in the processing of their asylum application and in accommodation. It is a general requirement that asylum cases involving children shall be given high priority.

252 Accepted¹⁰⁸

253 Accepted¹⁰⁹

Our asylum procedures and rules for family reunification are in line with our international obligations. Norway constantly strives to improve processing times.

254 Accepted¹¹⁰

See no. 253.

255 Noted¹¹¹

The situation for asylum seekers in Norway is in line with our human rights obligations.

256 Partially accepted¹¹²

See Annex for more details on what is accepted and noted. See no. 257.

257 Noted¹¹³

Norway is not considering to establish a statelessness determination procedure. Statelessness is not an independent ground for obtaining a residence permit in Norway. We do not interpret this to be an obligation under the 1954 Convention. Residency may, however, be granted under certain conditions in the event of practical obstacles to return that are beyond the control of the foreign national.

258 Noted¹¹⁴

While we do not have a general scheme facilitating visas for human rights defenders, we do have special arrangements for specific groups of human rights defenders, i.e., Students at Risk as well as artists and authors through ICORN and Safemuse.

259 Noted¹¹⁵

Persons in need of international protection are processed within the asylum system and the resettlement scheme. Norway is concerned about the situation for human rights defenders and aware of the gravity of their situation. See no. 258.

260 Partially accepted¹¹⁶

See Annex for more details on what is accepted and noted.

Other issues

261 Noted¹¹⁷

Vulnerable groups are continuously given specific attention.

262–263 Accepted¹¹⁸

Notes

¹ Please note that some of the recommendations are answered as one. This is shown in the annex' column "Norway's response to rec. number".

² Recommendation numbers 132.1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 24, 14, 15, 16, 21, 17, 23, 18, 19, 20, 31.

³ Recommendation number 132.30.

⁴ Recommendation number 132.32.

⁵ Recommendation numbers 132.25, 26, 27, 28, 29.

⁶ Recommendation number 132.22.

⁷ Recommendation number 132.8.

- 8 Recommendation numbers 132.36, 35, 37.
- 9 Recommendation numbers 132.40, 41, 42, 43.
- 10 Recommendation number 132.44.
- 11 Recommendation numbers 132.45, 46, 47, 48, 49.
- 12 Recommendation number 132.50.
- 13 Recommendation numbers 132.51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57.
- 14 Recommendation number 132.58.
- 15 Recommendation number 132.59.
- 16 Recommendation number 132.60.
- 17 Recommendation numbers 132.61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 67, 68, 69, 38, 84, 85, 86, 87.
- 18 Recommendation number 132.91.
- 19 Recommendation numbers 132.92, 1115, 254, 258, 259, 260.
- 20 Recommendation numbers 132.39, 66, 70, 112, 114.
- 21 Recommendation numbers 132.113, 116.
- 22 Recommendation number 132.117.
- 23 Recommendation numbers 132.156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 261.
- 24 Recommendation numbers 132.120, 121, 218, 122.
- 25 Recommendation numbers 132.71, 272.
- 26 Recommendation numbers 132.72, 73, 74, 75, 76.
- 27 Recommendation numbers 132.94, 229, 219.
- 28 Recommendation number 132.220.
- 29 Recommendation numbers 132.95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 103.
- 30 Recommendation number 132.198.
- 31 Recommendation numbers 132.199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 208, 206, 207, 209.
- 32 Recommendation number 132.210.
- 33 Recommendation number 132.211.
- 34 Recommendation number 132.212.
- 35 Recommendation number 132.213.
- 36 Recommendation numbers 132.214, 215, 216, 217.
- 37 Recommendation number 132.222.
- 38 Recommendation numbers 132.223, 224, 225, 226, 228.
- 39 Recommendation number 132.118.
- 40 Recommendation number 132.119.
- 41 Recommendation number 132.262.
- 42 Recommendation number 132.274.
- 43 Prop. 15 S 2015-2016: Action Plan on Psychoactive Substances.
- 44 St. 5 (2024-2025) *Safety, community, and dignity. The prevention and treatment reform to address substance use - Part I. A new policy for prevention, harm reduction and treatment.*
- 45 Recommendation numbers 132.123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128.
- 46 Recommendation number 132.129.
- 47 Recommendation numbers 132.130, 131, 132.
- 48 Recommendation number 132.133.
- 49 Act 9 June 2023 no. 30.
- 50 Recommendation numbers 132.270, 271.
- 51 Recommendation number 132.136.
- 52 Recommendation number 132.137.
- 53 Recommendation number 132.138.
- 54 Recommendation number 132.139.
- 55 Recommendation number 132.140.
- 56 Recommendation number 132.141.
- 57 Recommendation number 132.142.
- 58 Recommendation numbers 132.143, 144.
- 59 Recommendation number 132.145.
- 60 Recommendation number 132.146.
- 61 Recommendation numbers 132.147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152.
- 62 Recommendation number 132.153.
- 63 Recommendation number 132.154.
- 64 Recommendation number 132.155.
- 65 Recommendation number 132.33.
- 66 Recommendation number 132.163.
- 67 Recommendation number 132.164.
- 68 Recommendation numbers 132.83, 197.

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- ⁶⁹ Recommendation numbers 132.34, 182, 183, 93.
⁷⁰ Recommendation numbers 132.81, 168, 170, 171.
⁷¹ Recommendation numbers 132.82, 102, 165, 166, 167, 169, 172, 173.
⁷² Recommendation numbers 132.174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 227.
⁷³ Recommendation numbers 132.104, 105, 106.
⁷⁴ Recommendation numbers 132.107, 108.
⁷⁵ Recommendation numbers 132.109, 110, 78, 79.
⁷⁶ Recommendation number 132.231.
⁷⁷ Recommendation number 132.232.
⁷⁸ Recommendation numbers 132.233, 234, 235.
⁷⁹ Recommendation number 132.135.
⁸⁰ Recommendation number 132.111.
⁸¹ Recommendation numbers 132.230, 236.
⁸² Recommendation number 132.237.
⁸³ Recommendation number 132.238.
⁸⁴ Recommendation numbers 132.239, 240, 241.
⁸⁵ Recommendation numbers 132.134, 242, 243.
⁸⁶ Recommendation number 132.244.
⁸⁷ Recommendation number 132.245.
⁸⁸ Recommendation number 132.246.
⁸⁹ Recommendation number 132.247.
⁹⁰ Recommendation number 132.248.
⁹¹ Recommendation number 132.249.
⁹² Recommendation number 132.250.
⁹³ Recommendation numbers 132.251, 252.
⁹⁴ Recommendation number 132.253.
⁹⁵ Recommendation number 132.255.
⁹⁶ Recommendation numbers 132.256, 257.
⁹⁷ Recommendation number 132.264.
⁹⁸ Recommendation numbers 132.265, 266.
⁹⁹ Recommendation number 132.267.
¹⁰⁰ Recommendation number 132.268.
¹⁰¹ Recommendation number 132.269.
¹⁰² Recommendation number 132.273.
¹⁰³ Recommendation number 132.275.
¹⁰⁴ Recommendation numbers 132.276, 277.
¹⁰⁵ Recommendation number 132.221.
¹⁰⁶ Recommendation number 132.278.
¹⁰⁷ Recommendation number 132.279.
¹⁰⁸ Recommendation number 132.280.
¹⁰⁹ Recommendation number 132.281.
¹¹⁰ Recommendation number 132.282.
¹¹¹ Recommendation number 132.283.
¹¹² Recommendation number 132.284.
¹¹³ Recommendation number 132.285.
¹¹⁴ Recommendation number 132.88.
¹¹⁵ Recommendation number 132.89.
¹¹⁶ Recommendation number 132.90.
¹¹⁷ Recommendation number 132.263.
¹¹⁸ Recommendation numbers 132.80, 77.
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