



Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
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Nauru

Compilation of information prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the outcome of the previous review.¹ It is a compilation of information contained in relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with human rights mechanisms

2. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) reported that Nauru was not a signatory to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, despite its commitment to ratify it, along with the Optional Protocol thereto, in response to related universal periodic review recommendations.² UNESCO recommended that Nauru ratify the Covenant and the Optional Protocol thereto.³ The United Nations country team recommended that Nauru consider acceding to other core human rights instruments.⁴

3. The United Nations country team reported that Nauru was late in reporting to the Committee against Torture (initial report), the Committee on the Rights of the Child (second to sixth periodic reports) and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (initial report, which had been due in 2014).⁵

4. The United Nations country team indicated that, although Nauru had issued a standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders in 2011, it had never received a country visit by a mandate holder. In 2016, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants had visited the regional processing centres in Nauru as part of his country visit to another country. The United Nations country team recommended that Nauru consider collaborating with special procedure mandate holders for a country visit.⁶

5. The United Nations country team and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) indicated that Nauru was not a Party to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons or the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. The United Nations country team and UNHCR recommended that Nauru accede to both conventions.⁷



6. UNESCO encouraged Nauru to ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.⁸

7. UNESCO invited Nauru to continue its efforts to ensure the full and comprehensive implementation and monitoring of the Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers, in accordance with decision 45 of the UNESCO Executive Board at its 216th session, held in Paris from 10 to 24 May 2023. In that context, Nauru was invited to engage with the UNESCO Programme on the Freedom and Safety of Scientists and support the related call to action, in line with resolution 26 of the UNESCO General Conference at its forty-second session, held in Paris from 7 to 22 November 2023, and decision 30 of the UNESCO Executive Board at its 219th session, held in Paris from 13 to 27 March 2024. UNESCO indicated that it stood ready to support Nauru in developing and nurturing its science ecosystem and in protecting its scientific researchers, including through the incorporation of appropriate legal and administrative measures, in line with international law. Nauru was invited to collaborate directly with UNESCO, through its secretariat and specialized sectors, for that purpose.⁹

III. National human rights framework

1. Constitutional and legislative framework

8. The United Nations country team indicated that it was recognized in part II of the Constitution, entitled “Protection of fundamental rights and freedoms”, that every person in Nauru had fundamental rights and freedoms whatever their “race, place of origin, political opinions, colour, creed or sex”. However, the Constitution did not cover economic, social and cultural rights. The United Nations country team recommended that Nauru consider expanding the constitutional protection of human rights to include economic, social and cultural rights and other human rights, such as the right to development and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.¹⁰

9. UNESCO invited Nauru to explore ways to strengthen the status of the right to share in scientific advancement and its benefits in its legal system, including in its Constitution and any other appropriate legal and policy frameworks.¹¹

2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

10. The United Nations country team recommended that Nauru establish an ombudsman’s office to align its laws with international human rights law.¹²

IV. Promotion and protection of human rights

A. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

1. Right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture

11. UNESCO reported that it had recorded no killings of journalists in Nauru since 2006, when systematic monitoring had begun.¹³

2. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

12. The United Nations country team stated that the Nauru Declaration on Judicial Well-being had been adopted on 24 July 2024, containing seven core principles for healthier, resilient and ethical judiciaries. The United Nations country team recommended that Nauru continue to champion and lead by example on the promotion of judicial well-being.¹⁴

13. The United Nations country team indicated that Nauru lacked a law on access to public information. The United Nations country team recommended establishing a public library

with public government documents and adopting an act regulating access to freedom of information.¹⁵

3. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life

14. The United Nations country team reported that the Constitution and laws of Nauru provided for freedom of expression, including of the press. However, it indicated that the Government owned all media and exercised editorial control over content. All journalists in Nauru were employees of the Nauru Media Bureau. They were classified as public servants and took an oath of allegiance to the Government. The United Nations country team recommended that Nauru allow the establishment of private media outlets to report on controversial government decisions.¹⁶

15. UNESCO reported that there was no legislation ensuring freedom of information in Nauru. It encouraged Nauru to introduce legislation on access to information that was in accordance with international standards, to establish an independent broadcasting regulator and to assess the system of monitoring the media sector in order to ensure that that process was transparent and independent.¹⁷

16. UNESCO underlined that defamation was a criminal offence with penalties of up to three years' imprisonment under the Crimes Act, which had been adopted in 2016. The Administration of Justice Act, adopted in 2018, regulated crimes for contempt of court. That Act regulated publications that were critical of the Government and the judiciary. UNESCO recommended that Nauru decriminalize defamation and place it within civil defamation legislation that was in accordance with international standards.¹⁸

17. The United Nations country team underlined that Nauru had identified increasing women's political participation and representation as one of three priority actions for the subsequent five years. However, the country had not instituted any temporary special measures. The United Nations country team recommended that Nauru develop a strategy towards gender parity in politics that included temporary special measures, targeted political leadership training for women, addressing stereotypes and raising awareness of women's equal right to political participation and representation, and measures to address harassment, discrimination and other forms of violence against women in politics.¹⁹

4. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

18. UNESCO indicated that no legal provision had been identified that specified the minimum age of employment. The Education Act of 2011, as amended in 2021, permitted the employment of school-age children when it was outside school hours or when a child did not attend school. UNESCO encouraged Nauru to raise the minimum age of employment to at least 15, in accordance with international human rights law.²⁰

5. Right to social security

19. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that about 66 per cent of the population was covered by at least one social protection benefit.²¹

6. Right to an adequate standard of living

20. The United Nations country team indicated that the right to food in Nauru remained a critical concern, particularly in the light of the country's high dependence on imported food and its vulnerability to external supply chain disruptions. Structural challenges, including limited arable land due to historical phosphate mining and climate-related risks, further constrained the local production of food. Although the Government had taken steps to improve food security through social protection programmes and school feeding initiatives, such efforts were hampered by limited infrastructure, weak monitoring systems and inconsistent access to nutritious food. The United Nations country team recommended that Nauru promote initiatives for the sustainable production of healthy food, including through support to kitchen gardens, and adopt regulations to curb imports of unhealthy food.²²

21. The United Nations country team highlighted that, as small island State affected by historical phosphate mining, Nauru faced unique water security challenges, with saltwater

intrusion (an impact of climate change) threatening freshwater supplies. In addition, while Nauru had achieved 97 per cent population coverage for basic drinking water access, gaps remained in sanitation, with only 66 per cent population coverage. The United Nations country team recommended that Nauru strengthen its climate-resilient water and sanitation infrastructure to address saltwater intrusion and ensure sustainable access to safe water and sanitation services for all children and families.²³

7. Right to health

22. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that Nauru faced unique health challenges due to its demographic, social, economic and political context. The Government of Nauru provided free universal healthcare to all citizens. Primary care and public health services were delivered through the Naeoro Public Health Centre and the Republic of Nauru Hospital provided specialized medical, surgical, dental and diagnostic care. Nauru faced challenges in retaining skilled health workers and ensuring the sustainability of services. WHO considered that developing greater self-sufficiency in healthcare was a priority for Nauru.²⁴

23. WHO underlined that Nauru faced a triple burden of communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases and climate and environment-related health impacts. Although there had been improvements, tuberculosis and leprosy remained endemic, and outbreaks of typhoid and diarrhoea occurred periodically. Non-communicable diseases, including obesity, diabetes and hypertension, were the main causes of mortality, reflecting poor diet, lack of exercise and high rates of tobacco and alcohol use.²⁵

24. WHO reported that water and food insecurity in Nauru worsened health issues. Droughts, freshwater contamination and reliance on imported processed foods contributed to malnutrition. Limited health system capacity constrained the ability of Nauru to address rising rates of non-communicable diseases. Gaps in the health workforce, including in numbers, training and diversity, had resulted in a heavy reliance on external technical assistance. WHO considered that key strategies for strengthening the health system included developing the health workforce, enhancing disease surveillance and response, improving procurement and supply chains and implementing primary care and non-communicable disease prevention programmes.²⁶

25. The United Nations country team stressed that the State Party Annual Self-Assessment Reporting of Nauru to WHO for 2024 had revealed notable disparities across the country's core international health regulations capacities, with the most critical gap found in its coordination and national focal point functions. Those functions were severely underdeveloped and the low score for the multisectoral coordination mechanisms highlighted a lack of integrated, whole-of-government emergency response. The United Nations country team indicated that urgent action to strengthen international health regulations coordination and national focal point functionality was essential to enhance the public health preparedness and response capabilities of Nauru. The United Nations country team recommended that Nauru strengthen its health security based on the findings of the 2024 State Party Annual Self-Assessment Reporting. It also recommended that Nauru prioritize improving its international health regulations and its national focal point functionality and establish strong multisectoral coordination mechanisms.²⁷

26. The United Nations country team reported that, in 2025, Nauru had formally prioritized a comprehensive revision of its essential medicines list, although it highlighted the absence of a dedicated fund to address that effort. The United Nations country team recommended that Nauru lead comprehensive stakeholder consultations, in collaboration with WHO, to review and endorse the revised essential medicines list. It also recommended that Nauru secure funding for those consultations and related capacity-building efforts, improve essential medicines list accessibility by means of digital platforms and integrate the updated list into clinical guidelines and procurement tools.²⁸

27. UNICEF indicated that there were opportunities to improve general maternal and child health through more antenatal and postnatal care visits.²⁹ The United Nations country team recommended that Nauru strengthen antenatal care services to achieve universal coverage of at least four visits during pregnancy, with a focus on quality service provision.³⁰

28. The United Nations country team reported that, in 2024, Nauru had conducted its first family planning training, resulting in the certification of several healthcare providers and the adoption of youth-friendly health service guidelines. Those interventions were aimed at increasing access to and the quality of reproductive health services in Nauru, including counselling, information and the provision of contraception in line with a human rights-based approach. The United Nations country team recommended that Nauru continue strengthening family planning services and access to sexual and reproductive health information to significantly reduce unmet needs for family planning by 2027.³¹

29. The United Nations country team highlighted that abortion was criminalized in Nauru: the provider, the woman and anyone who assisted were penalized, except in circumstances in which a medical provider administered the procedure to save the woman's life. It recommended that Nauru review and amend laws to decriminalize abortion and expand access to information and services for sexual and reproductive health.³²

8. Right to education

30. UNESCO indicated that the Constitution of Nauru did not guarantee the right to education. It added that the Education Act of 2011, as amended in 2021, guaranteed the right to education but it was limited to children and did not contain a principle of non-discrimination. The same act provided that education was free and compulsory from the age of 4 until the age of 18. UNESCO encouraged Nauru to continue its efforts to strengthen policies to further enhance the right to education and inclusive education, notably by working closely with the UNESCO Regional Office for the Pacific States. UNESCO also encouraged Nauru to enshrine the right to education in its Constitution and legislation and to legally proscribe discrimination in education.³³

31. UNESCO encouraged Nauru to regularly submit comprehensive national reports for the periodic consultations on the UNESCO education-related standard-setting instruments, and notably on the Recommendation against Discrimination in Education.³⁴

32. UNESCO pointed out that, during the previous review cycle, it had been recommended that Nauru actively take measures to further ensure the right to education, notably inclusive education for girls and persons with disabilities. It added that the country was transforming its education management information system, as there had been a lack of data for reporting, especially against the indicator for Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all).³⁵

33. The United Nations country team reported that 78 per cent of girls and 88 per cent of boys attended primary school in Nauru. Those figures dropped to 61 per cent for girls and 68 per cent for boys for secondary school, with upper secondary completion reaching only 45 per cent of children. Out-of-school rates were particularly high at the secondary level (30 per cent). The United Nations country team recommended that Nauru improve educational access and quality, particularly at the secondary level, through targeted interventions to reduce dropout rates and improve learning outcomes, with particular focus on addressing the different barriers facing girls and boys.³⁶

9. Development, the environment, and business and human rights

34. WHO indicated that, as a phosphate-rock island, Nauru was vulnerable to the effects of climate change effects. WHO considered that increasing climate change resilience was key to enhancing the health system.³⁷

35. The United Nations country team considered that, due to phosphate mining, Nauru faced major climate vulnerabilities affecting the population's rights to health, education and development. The United Nations country team recommended that Nauru develop the capacity of the Department of Climate Change and National Resilience (specifically human and financial resources) to effectively address the challenges of climate change, advocate for climate change mitigation policies and strengthen climate change education in schools to build children's awareness and adaptive capacity for environmental challenges.³⁸

36. The United Nations country team reported that Nauru had introduced a gender-responsive climate change policy to integrate gender equality into climate action, disaster risk management and pandemic response. The policy supported the Nauru National Sustainable Development Strategy. The United Nations country team underlined the limited capacity for implementation of the policy work on the Minimum Initial Service Package for Sexual and Reproductive Health and the Inter-Agency Minimum Standards on Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Programming. The United Nations country team recommended that Nauru implement policies, contingency plans and training to ensure the continuity of gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health services during emergencies. It also recommended that Nauru address the protracted impacts of climate change by 2028, invest in community-based resilience-building and livelihood diversification programmes that empowered women and girls and reduced their vulnerability to climate change impacts, and address the rights of women and of persons with disabilities when implementing programmes on climate change adaptation and mitigation.³⁹

B. Rights of specific persons or groups

1. Women

37. The United Nations country team pointed to the strides made by Nauru in promoting gender equality and protecting the rights of women and girls. In particular, it highlighted the establishment of the Department of Women and Social Development Affairs in 2020 and the adoption of the Action Plan for National Gender Equality Policies 2025–2030, the Domestic Violence and Family Protection Act 2017 and the Crimes Act 2016, which had strengthened the legal framework to protect women from violence, including intimate partner violence and marital rape. The United Nations country team highlighted the remaining challenges and underlined the high prevalence of gender-based violence and the need to implement multisectoral gender-based violence coordination mechanisms and the need to create conditions for confidential and quality service provision for survivors. The caseloads of social work providers were reportedly too high to meet international standards for quality of case management and care. The United Nations country team recommended that Nauru strengthen its referral services and case management, ensuring that timely and confidential services were provided.⁴⁰

38. The United Nations country team reported that, in April 2024, Nauru had hosted the second Micronesian Ministers for Women Conference, at which the An Towepo Declaration had been adopted. In the declaration, prioritizing ending violence against women, women's economic empowerment, health, education, gender and culture were highlighted as key issues of importance for Governments in the region to address. Also in 2024, Nauru had adopted and trained its healthcare workforce on the Clinical Practice Guideline for Survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence to strengthen a survivor-centred health-sector response to gender-based violence in the country. In that context, the United Nations country team recommended that Nauru continue to strengthen healthcare and broader multisectoral services and coordination to address the needs of all survivors of gender-based violence, including child survivors, ensuring that standards for quality of care and systems to protect survivor data were implemented in line with ethical and safety guidelines. It also recommended creating long-term social and healthcare workforce plans to ensure continuity of life-saving social and health services for all survivors and to protect the well-being of staff and volunteers who worked to support survivors.⁴¹

39. The United Nations country team considered that the economic empowerment and participation of women in decision-making were key focus areas in Nauru, with programmes to support women entrepreneurs and to increase women's representation in leadership roles. It highlighted that harmful cultural practices, limited resources and the significant burden of domestic work, including household work, chores and the care of children, older persons and persons with disabilities, continued to pose barriers and limited women's economic and educational opportunities. According to the United Nations country team, enhancing healthcare access, improving education outcomes and increasing political participation must be priorities for Nauru.⁴²

2. Children

40. The United Nations country team underlined the challenges that Nauru faced in ensuring children's rights, despite being a high-income economy. Child health indicators showed mixed progress on under-5 mortality, immunization coverage, nutrition and maternal health. The United Nations country team recommended that Nauru strengthen immunization systems to achieve 95 per cent coverage for all vaccines through improved service delivery and community engagement by 2028.⁴³

41. The United Nations country team and UNICEF indicated that about 16 per cent of children aged under 5 suffered from stunting, while 8 per cent were overweight and 4 per cent were underweight.⁴⁴ The United Nations country team recommended that Nauru implement comprehensive nutrition interventions, including the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding, improved complementary feeding practices and school nutrition programmes to address the double burden of malnutrition.⁴⁵

42. The United Nations country team and UNICEF reported that violence against children remained high in Nauru and that violent child discipline was common, with 81 per cent of children experiencing violence in 2023 and 13 per cent of children experiencing severe physical punishment.⁴⁶ The United Nations country team recommended that Nauru develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to eliminate violent discipline against children, including awareness campaigns and positive parenting programmes.⁴⁷

43. The United Nations country team and UNICEF indicated that 18 per cent of women aged 20–24 had been married before the age of 18.⁴⁸ While that was a significant improvement from the previous 2007 measurement, of 27 per cent, the United Nations country team considered that child, early and forced marriage remained a serious issue to be addressed. The United Nations country team recommended that Nauru strengthen the enforcement of child marriage laws and implement targeted interventions to address adolescent pregnancy through comprehensive sexuality education and youth-friendly health services.⁴⁹

44. The United Nations country team reported that adolescent fertility was very high in Nauru, with 80.6 births per 1,000 females aged 15–19, the highest in the Pacific region. The United Nations country team recommended that Nauru enhance access to sexual and reproductive health services and information for youth, with targeted programmes for adolescent girls, to address their specific needs. The United Nations country team also recommended that Nauru develop integrated adolescent health services addressing the high adolescent fertility rates and supporting comprehensive youth development.⁵⁰

3. Persons with disabilities

45. The United Nations country team indicated that, in 2023, Nauru had adopted the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities Act. The Act established the Department of People Living with Disabilities, which included specific functions and powers for a minister and a secretary to monitor and promote the rights of persons with disabilities. The Act also established the Disability Coordinating Council. However, the United Nations country team reported that significant gaps remained in the collection of comprehensive data and the provision of inclusive services, particularly affecting the understanding of barriers faced by women and girls with disabilities in accessing healthcare, education and protection services. The United Nations country team recommended that Nauru upgrade mainstream schools to cater for children with disabilities and conduct a study to assess the specific barriers that women and girls with disabilities faced in accessing healthcare (including sexual and reproductive healthcare), protection from violence, employment and education by 2027.⁵¹

4. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons

46. The United Nations country team reported that, while there was protection from discrimination on the basis of sex in policy and legal frameworks, there had been no definition of gender in the policy and legislative frameworks of Nauru until 2024. That limited the scope of legal protection and quality of service provision for some women and men, as well as LGBTQI+ persons. The drafting of a "contextualized definition of gender" for Nauru had continued during 2024. The United Nations country team recommended that

Nauru review its legal framework to offer broader protection for all persons, including eliminating discrimination on the basis of gender and sexual orientation.⁵²

5. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

47. UNHCR stated that, over more than two decades, Nauru had received approximately 4,000 asylum-seekers transferred from a third country for offshore processing. The current arrangement underpinning the transfers had been confirmed in an “enduring” form by both States in 2021. UNHCR underlined that, for persons transferred from other countries, conditions in Nauru were extremely challenging and durable solutions were not currently available.⁵³

48. UNHCR reported that, in late 2024, the third country had further expanded its externalization policy by enacting laws authorizing “third country reception arrangements” to facilitate the removal of non-citizens present in that country who were unable to be returned to their country of origin. Nauru had subsequently entered into an agreement with that country to receive such persons, including some who had been determined to be refugees. UNHCR publicly expressed concerns with respect to that development, noting that such arrangements went beyond what was lawful under international law.⁵⁴

49. UNHCR recommended that the Government of Nauru cease to receive involuntary transfers under those or similar arrangements. However, if transfers were to continue, both Governments must ensure that all necessary safeguards were in place, including ensuring access to asylum, all relevant rights and durable solutions for all individuals affected. UNHCR also recommended that Nauru retain joint responsibility with the third country for all forcibly displaced and stateless persons involuntarily transferred and guarantee all of their rights under the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and other applicable international human rights laws and standards.⁵⁵

50. UNHCR indicated that the establishment of long-term settlement arrangements within Nauru was unlikely to result in a durable legal status and sustainable local integration for refugees. The complex health, educational, child protection and welfare, social and vocational needs of the refugee population in Nauru exceeded the capacity of Nauruan services. As most refugees were unlikely to voluntarily return to their countries of origin, they remained in a state of limbo, with significant impacts on their mental health.⁵⁶

51. UNHCR underlined that Nauru did not possess the healthcare infrastructure or medical personnel trained to adequately respond to the complex health needs of the many transferred asylum-seekers and refugees. Although basic medical care was provided through a subcontracted service funded by a third country, refugees were reliant on the underresourced public hospital of Nauru. Inadequate medical care had resulted in serious risks to the health and well-being of those transferred, including loss of life. In line with the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, UNHCR urged Nauru to ensure that individuals requiring specialized or emergency care could be medically evacuated to the third country without delay. UNHCR recommended that Nauru ensure timely access to appropriate healthcare services for asylum-seekers and refugees, including through medical evacuation where needed.⁵⁷

52. UNHCR highlighted that, under the Immigration Act 2014 and Immigration Regulations 2014, asylum-seekers transferred by a third country to Nauru were granted Regional Processing Centre visas, subject to the condition that the “holder shall reside in premises specified in the visa”. That effectively authorized the detention of asylum-seekers upon transfer to Nauru for an unspecified period, as Nauruan law did not prescribe time limits for detention. Release from detention in most cases would be available only once an asylum-seeker was either recognized as a refugee or finally determined not to have international protection needs.⁵⁸

53. UNHCR indicated that Nauru did not have specific laws or policies regulating the length of time that individuals could be held at the Regional Processing Centre. UNHCR raised serious concerns regarding the absence of individualized assessments, the indefinite nature of detention and the potential for discriminatory treatment. In addition, it stressed that efforts must be made to promptly transfer individuals from the Regional Processing Centre to community-based settings to mitigate the harmful psychological and physical effects of

prolonged detention. UNHCR recommended that Nauru ensure that the immigration detention of forcibly displaced and stateless people was used as a measure of last resort, after a consideration of all available alternatives, and respected the requirements of reasonableness, necessity and proportionality. It also recommended that Nauru ensure due process rights for forcibly displaced and stateless people in immigration detention, including the opportunity to challenge detention decisions and the periodic review of the justification for continuing the detention by a court or independent administrative authority.⁵⁹

54. In two decisions, the Human Rights Committee ruled that the third country remained responsible for the arbitrary detention of asylum-seekers redirected or transferred to offshore detention facilities in Nauru. The Committee published its decisions about two cases involving refugees and asylum-seekers, one regarding 24 unaccompanied minors, who had endured prolonged and arbitrary detention in the Regional Processing Centre in Nauru. They had been transferred to Nauru in 2014 and detained at the overcrowded Regional Processing Centre with insufficient water supply and sanitation, high temperatures and humidity, as well as inadequate healthcare. Despite all but one of the minors being granted refugee status in about September 2014, they remained detained in Nauru.⁶⁰

55. UNHCR underlined that Nauru had undertaken to cooperate with UNHCR in discharge of its supervisory responsibilities. However, UNHCR had been unable to visit Nauru since the resumption of transfers in 2023 and therefore it could not attest to the current nature or conditions of detention or other restrictions on liberty of movement. A request by UNHCR to access refugees and asylum-seekers in Nauru had been pending since April 2024. UNHCR recommended that Nauru facilitate its access to asylum-seekers and refugees in Nauru, in line with its supervisory responsibility under the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.⁶¹

6. Stateless persons

56. UNHCR commended Nauru for accepting and implementing prior recommendations to amend the Naoero Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2017 to provide nationality for children who would otherwise not have the nationality of any other country. It also commended the Government of Nauru for removing gender-discriminatory provisions in its nationality laws that had limited the ability of women to pass citizenship to their spouses. UNHCR encouraged Nauru to ensure adequate safeguards against statelessness in section 23 of the Naoero Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2017 to ensure non-revocation of citizenship where a person would be rendered stateless, in accordance with international law. It also encouraged Nauru to strengthen the wording of section 22 (3) of the Act, consistent with article 7 of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, in order to disallow renunciation of citizenship in circumstances where it would result in the individual becoming stateless, and to include an appropriate definition of statelessness in its nationality legislation. UNHCR recommended that Nauru make relevant changes to its domestic legal framework to prevent and reduce statelessness. UNHCR also recommended that Nauru adopt a statelessness determination procedure for the identification of stateless persons.⁶²

57. UNHCR stated that Nauru remained highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and that the risk of statelessness increased when people were on the move, including during displacement in the context of climate change. It underlined that strengthening the nationality laws of Nauru to prevent and mitigate statelessness represented a forward-leaning risk mitigation measure to ensure that people at risk of statelessness in climate-vulnerable locations had access to nationality and birth registration.⁶³

Notes

¹ [A/HRC/47/17](#), [A/HRC/47/17/Add.1](#) and [A/HRC/47/2](#).

² UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Nauru, para. 15.

³ *Ibid.*, para. 23 (v). See also the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) submission for the universal periodic review of Nauru, p. 1.

⁴ United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Nauru, p. 2.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

- ⁷ Ibid.; and UNHCR submission, pp. 1 and 7.
- ⁸ UNESCO submission, paras. 17 (i) and 21.
- ⁹ Ibid., para. 22.
- ¹⁰ United Nations country team submission, p. 3.
- ¹¹ UNESCO submission, para. 23 (ii).
- ¹² United Nations country team submission, p. 7.
- ¹³ UNESCO submission, para. 13.
- ¹⁴ United Nations country team submission, p. 7.
- ¹⁵ Ibid.
- ¹⁶ Ibid.
- ¹⁷ UNESCO submission, paras. 9, 18 and 19.
- ¹⁸ Ibid., paras. 10 and 20.
- ¹⁹ United Nations country team submission, pp. 4 and 5.
- ²⁰ UNESCO submission, paras. 4 and 17 (v).
- ²¹ See https://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/media/5196/file/The_situation_of_children_in_Nauru.pdf.
See also United Nations country team submission, p. 5.
- ²² United Nations country team submission, p. 8.
- ²³ Ibid.
- ²⁴ See <https://www.who.int/nauru/our-work>.
- ²⁵ Ibid.
- ²⁶ Ibid.
- ²⁷ United Nations country team submission, pp. 9 and 10.
- ²⁸ Ibid., pp. 9 and 11.
- ²⁹ See https://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/media/5196/file/The_situation_of_children_in_Nauru.pdf.
- ³⁰ United Nations country team submission, p. 6.
- ³¹ Ibid., p. 10.
- ³² Ibid.
- ³³ UNESCO submission, paras. 2, 3 and 17 (ii)–(iv) and (vi).
- ³⁴ Ibid., para. 17 (viii).
- ³⁵ Ibid., para. 7.
- ³⁶ United Nations country team submission, pp. 6 and 11.
- ³⁷ See <https://www.who.int/nauru/our-work>.
- ³⁸ United Nations country team submission, p. 12.
- ³⁹ Ibid.
- ⁴⁰ Ibid., pp. 3 and 4.
- ⁴¹ Ibid., p. 4.
- ⁴² Ibid., pp. 3 and 4.
- ⁴³ Ibid., pp. 5 and 6.
- ⁴⁴ United Nations country team submission, p. 5; and see
https://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/media/5196/file/The_situation_of_children_in_Nauru.pdf.
- ⁴⁵ United Nations country team submission, p. 6.
- ⁴⁶ Ibid., p. 5; and see
https://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/media/5196/file/The_situation_of_children_in_Nauru.pdf.
- ⁴⁷ United Nations country team submission, p. 6.
- ⁴⁸ Ibid., p. 5; and see
https://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/media/5196/file/The_situation_of_children_in_Nauru.pdf.
- ⁴⁹ United Nations country team submission, pp. 5 and 6.
- ⁵⁰ Ibid., pp. 5, 6 and 10.
- ⁵¹ Ibid., p. 6.
- ⁵² Ibid., p. 4.
- ⁵³ UNHCR submission, pp. 2–4.
- ⁵⁴ Ibid., p. 2.
- ⁵⁵ Ibid., pp. 3 and 4.
- ⁵⁶ Ibid., p. 3.
- ⁵⁷ UNHCR submission, pp. 5 and 6. See also United Nations country team submission, p. 11.
- ⁵⁸ UNHCR submission, p. 4.
- ⁵⁹ Ibid., p. 5.
- ⁶⁰ [CCPR/C/142/D/2749/2016](https://www.unhcr.org/refugees/country-of-origin/procedures/142/D/2749/2016) and [CCPR/C/142/D/3663/2019](https://www.unhcr.org/refugees/country-of-origin/procedures/142/D/3663/2019). See also UNHCR submission, p. 4.
- ⁶¹ UNHCR submission, pp. 1, 5 and 6.
- ⁶² Ibid., pp. 6 and 7.
- ⁶³ Ibid., p. 7.