



General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 November 2025
English
Original: Arabic

Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Fifty-first session
Geneva, 19–30 January 2026

National report submitted in accordance with Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21*

Oman

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	3
II. Methodology and consultation process followed to draft the national report	3
A. Methodology for following up on the review	3
B. Report drafting and participatory process	3
III. Implementation of recommendations from previous cycle	4
A. Accession to and compliance with international human rights treaties and international and regional cooperation.....	4
B. Constitutional framework and legal protection for human rights	4
C. National institutions for the protection of human rights	5
D. Equality and non-discrimination.....	6
E. Right to development.....	6
F. Human rights and climate change.....	6
G. Fair trial and access to justice	7
H. Freedom of opinion and expression and access to information	8
I. Trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery	8
J. Right to health.....	9
K. Right to education.....	10
L. Human rights education, training courses and awareness.....	11
M. Violence against women, sexual violence, gender-based violence and discrimination against women	11
N. Persons with disabilities: Definition, general principles, autonomy and inclusion.....	12
O. Children: Definition, general principles, protection, family environment, alternative care, protection from exploitation and juvenile justice	13
P. Rights related to name, identity and nationality	13
Q. General framework for implementation, scope of international obligations, cooperation with human rights mechanisms, requests for technical assistance and national human rights plans.....	14
R. Cooperation and consultation with civil society, human rights and counter-terrorism, and freedom of association	15
S. Civil and political rights, general implementation procedures and freedom of thought, belief and religion	15
T. Economic, social and cultural rights, general implementation measures, labour rights and the right to work.....	16
U. Empowerment of women.....	18
V. Other	19
IV. Implementation status of voluntary pledges.....	19
V. Achievements and best practices.....	20
VI. Challenges and priorities.....	21
VII. Conclusion	21

I. Introduction

1. Oman is submitting its fourth national report, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251, with Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1, 16/21 and 17/119, and with the guidelines for drafting reports under the universal periodic review mechanism.

2. This report monitors developments and progress in the Sultanate of Oman in promoting and protecting human rights during the period 2021–2024.

3. The present report supplements the plan of action that Oman began to roll out after the adoption of its first report. Its essential focus is how gradually but effectively to integrate a human rights system and harmonize it with the country's specific circumstances and challenges. Currently, Oman is continuing to add to its already outstanding record of achievements in the promotion and protection of human rights, both contributing to and interacting with international best practices in that regard.

4. Oman Vision 2040, which enjoyed wide participation from all segments of society, is a road map for a prosperous future in which Omanis and residents enjoy prosperity, security, freedom, justice and equality. It is also a methodology that defines the foundations on which public policy is built. It is designed to improve the quality of life of citizens and residents by raising living standards; providing welfare and social security; promoting and protecting the integrity, cohesion and stability of the family and society; providing decent job opportunities; and creating guarantees for fundamental rights and freedoms. The Vision also emphasizes investing in human capital and training by laying the foundations of a high-quality comprehensive education system that provides free, compulsory and comprehensive education. It also stresses strengthening, improving and expanding preventive and therapeutic health care services at all levels. The Vision encourages civil society institutions to play an important role in coordinating and developing programmes that promote social cohesion, preserve cultural and historical heritage and actively contribute to various social, economic and humanitarian aspects. Full details can be found by visiting the Vision website at the following link:

https://www.mof.gov.om/UploadsAll/Homepage/1683179433240Vision_Documents_Ar.pdf

II. Methodology and consultation process followed to draft the national report

A. Methodology for following up on the review

5. Preparation and drafting: The Sultanate of Oman adopted a timeframe for presenting and discussing its universal periodic review report. Since accepting the recommendations submitted to it over five years ago, the Sultanate of Oman has been diligently striving to act on the recommendations it accepted, within the framework of a comprehensive national vision and of a number of basic parameters. A plan of action was adopted and rolled out after the adoption of the first report, the essential focus of which was how gradually but effectively to integrate a human rights system and harmonize it with the country's specific circumstances and challenges. Currently, Oman is continuing to add to its already outstanding record of achievements in the promotion and protection of human rights, both contributing to and interacting with international best practices in that regard.

B. Report drafting and participatory process

6. A legal committee was tasked with drafting the national report. It followed a broad participatory process, in keeping with relevant United Nations principles and consistent with the values of transparency and impartiality, to which it adhered in its activities.

7. Drafting and preparation: Available data was collected from government agencies, the Oman Human Rights Commission and civil society, and set forth in the report according to

a clear methodology. Focus was on the steps taken and efforts made to implement recommendations accepted by the Sultanate of Oman during the third cycle. That stage resulted in the preparation of the draft report.

8. National review and consultation: The legal committee formed by the Council of Ministers to prepare the fourth report and follow up on implementation of recommendations accepted by the Sultanate of Oman adopted a set of procedures within the framework of a participatory process. That committee held a series of meetings within that framework, and organized a number of workshops, forums and training sessions in cooperation with the Oman Human Rights Committee and several Oman civil society organizations and government agencies. It discussed their proposals on the best ways to follow up on the review results and prepare the fourth report, in terms of its participatory character in form and content. The national report was also presented to the Council of Ministers for consideration of the outcomes of the report's various consultative stages. The Sultanate of Oman believes that it is important that civil society took part proactively in the report's preparation in a manner that reflects the human rights situation in a realistic and transparent fashion.

III. Implementation of recommendations from previous cycle

9. The recommendations in question were transmitted to the Sultanate of Oman during the third cycle of the universal periodic review at the Human Rights Council on 21 January 2021. They were adopted at the 47th session in July 2021. The Sultanate of Oman received 264 recommendations of which it accepted or partially accepted 208 and took note of 49. This section of the report covers the measures taken with regard to the implementation of the recommendations that were accepted or partially accepted, grouped under the relevant topics.

A. Accession to and compliance with international human rights treaties and international and regional cooperation

Recommendations accepted: 134.1, 134.2, 134.3, 134.5, 134.12, 134.13, 134.14, 134.15, 134.16, 134.17, 134.18, 134.19, 134.20, 134.21, 134.22, 134.23, 134.24, 134.25, 134.27, 134.4, 134.6, 134.8, 134.9, 134.10, 134.11

Recommendations taken note of: 134.7, 134.26, 134.28, 134.29, 134.30, 134.31, 134.33, 134.34, 134.35, 135.36.

10. The Sultanate of Oman has devoted attention to the promotion and protection of human rights by developing national regulations and legislation that incorporate human rights and harmonize with the contents of the conventions it has ratified or acceded to. It has also strengthened the role of national human rights mechanisms.

11. The Sultanate of Oman has also been considering international human rights conventions and protocols which it has not acceded to or ratified. It has fulfilled its international obligations under the conventions it has acceded to, such as preparing initial and periodic reports on implementation of those conventions and protocols. It takes part in dialogue sessions with international human rights treaty and convention committees, and follows up on implementation of their observations and recommendations.

B. Constitutional framework and legal protection for human rights

Recommendations accepted: 134.44, 134.46, 134.47, 134.50, 134.107, 134.55

Recommendations taken note of: 134.169, 134.252, 134.254.

12. The Basic Law of the State guarantees the rights and freedoms of individuals within the framework of the rule of law. It affirms justice, equality and fairness as basic principles governing State policy. The State has enshrined all legal principles and international standards to protect citizens, residents and anyone present on its territory. That guarantees those groups their rights based on social justice, as recognized by the Basic Law of the State,

article 15, which states that justice, equality and equal opportunity for the Omani people shall be the pillars of society as a whole and are guaranteed by the State; that solidarity and mutual assistance shall be a close bond among citizens; and that strengthening national unity is a duty. The State prohibits anything conducive to division, discord or damage to national unity. This article also guarantees the freedom of citizens to choose their own work within the limits of the law.

13. Acting upon the human rights principles constitutionally enshrined in the Basic Law of the State and the international treaties and charters to which the country has acceded, legislators in Oman have ensured that such principles are protected with numerous pieces of domestic legislation. Many royal decrees, laws, regulations and decrees were issued between 2021 and 2024, and the Sultanate of Oman is in the process of drafting other bills related to rights, as outlined in Annex 1 to this report.

14. It should be pointed out that His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik – in his historic first address upon becoming Sultan on 11 January 2020 – stated that Oman will maintain its role as an active member of the United Nations Organization, one that respects the Charter and works with other Member States to realize international peace and security, as well as economic prosperity, for all countries of the world. That is on the basis of the great heritage left behind by the late Sultan, may God have mercy on him, of commitment to friendship and cooperation with all and respect for charters, laws and treaties signed with other countries and organizations.

15. The Sultanate of Oman attaches great importance to disseminating peace, dialogue and harmony. Its endeavours are multifaceted. It is always trying to bring together points of view and open horizons of dialogue between the different countries of the world. It has led numerous efforts to promote and spread peace. It has played pivotal roles in two important issues in the Islamic world: the Yemeni issue and the issue of managing the release of hostages held in certain States.

C. National institutions for the protection of human rights

Recommendations accepted: 134.49, 134.53

16. The Oman Human Rights Commission was established in 2008 as a national institution with a legal personality and administrative and financial independence. As part of the Sultanate's efforts to strengthen the Commission's human rights protection efforts in accordance with the Paris Principles, and taking into account the recommendation that it accepted regarding the Commission, the Oman Human Rights Commission was reorganized by Royal Decree No. 57/2022, consistent with the Paris Principles, by providing that the Commission is independent and not subsidiary to any party, and that the Commission's Chair and Vice-Chair should be elected by representatives of civil society, with Government representatives excluded from voting. The Commission was also granted the authority to issue its own internal regulations and manage its administrative and financial affairs without the need to obtain prior approval.

17. The Commission reviews observations regarding the country's human rights record made by other Governments, international bodies and non-governmental organizations, and coordinates with the competent authorities to take the necessary measures. The Commission monitors any violations or excesses, receives reports related to human rights in the country, and works to resolve them in a manner that preserves the rights and freedoms of individuals, including both citizens and residents. In accordance with the decree reorganizing the Oman Human Rights Commission, the Commission is also competent to set forth a national human rights strategy. It may also conduct field visits to prisons, places of detention, hospitals and labour rallies, monitor and study the human rights situation at such locations, make and follow up on recommendations to the competent authorities, and cooperate with international mechanisms, prepare reports and take part in meetings at the regional and international levels. It may also hold human rights conferences, sessions and forums, and represent the Sultanate of Oman at regional and international conferences, activities and meetings. In that connection, it should be noted that all amendments in connection with universal periodic

review recommendations accepted by the Sultanate of Oman are harmonized with the Paris Principles by the Oman Commission on Human Rights.

D. Equality and non-discrimination

Recommendations accepted: 134.64, 134.66, 134.79, 134.80, 134.155, 134.60.

Recommendations taken note of: 134.63, 134.67, 134.68.

18. The Sultanate of Oman makes ongoing efforts to promote gender equality and ensure equal rights for all groups in society, based on its commitment to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5. The Sultanate's efforts to develop and promote equal rights for all groups in society are backed by legal frameworks for the principles of equality without discrimination, as called for in the Basic Law of the State, Book II on the Principles Guiding State Policy, Chapter III, entitled Social Principles, which affirms that the Sultanate of Oman guarantees justice, equality and equal opportunity as pillars of society, along with equality between women and men. All legislation in the Sultanate of Oman is enacted in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Basic Law of the State and may not contradict them. Article 15 of that Basic Law emphasizes the State's obligation to ensure equality between women and men and to guarantee the welfare of children, persons with disabilities and young people. The scope of application of the principle of equality provided for in that article is not limited to Omanis; it is formulated in absolute general terms.

19. The Social Protection Law issued by Royal Decree No. 52/2023 provides for a number of benefits for the neediest groups, namely, women, orphans, widows, widowers, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities. It subsidizes family income to ensure them a life of dignity. Women are explicitly covered in most of the social protection benefits provided for by the law: widows, divorced women, women with disabilities. The principles of women's rights apply to all social insurance programmes, including for old age, disability, death, maternity leave, job security, on-the-job injury, occupational illnesses, sick leave and unusual leave.

20. The Ministry of Social Development issued regulations for the care of the elderly in alternative families by Ministerial Decision No. 190/2024, and regulations for day-care centres for the elderly by Ministerial Decision No. 344/2024.

21. The Sultanate of Oman is a living model of tolerance, peaceful coexistence among all communities and ethnic groups in society, and rejection of hatred and extremism. This has in fact become the reigning culture in Omani society.

E. Right to development

Recommendations accepted: 134.70, 134.71, 134.201.

22. The Sultanate of Oman is earnestly seeking to translate into reality its international commitment to realize the United Nations sustainable development agenda by 2030. It has integrated the Agenda into long-term strategies and medium- and short-term action plans and programmes, and achieved fruitful results, most notably high economic growth rates. It has supported diversification and reduced public debt to safe levels. All this has clearly contributed to increasing gross domestic product, raising financial and economic indicators, promoting investment and diversifying national income sources. The Sultanate of Oman presented its second voluntary national review in July 2024.

F. Human rights and climate change

Recommendation accepted: 134.54.

23. The Sultanate of Oman has devoted special attention to protection of the natural environment and sustainable use of natural resources. Its Environment Authority was established by Royal Decree No. 106/2020. Oman had already been one of the first Arab

States with an independent agency dedicated to the environment. In that same year, the Sultanate of Oman set forth a national biodiversity strategy and action plan. Oman Vision 2040 contains a dedicated component on a sustainable environment among its four principal components. The environment and natural resources priority figures in seven of its strategic objectives, all of which are linked to Sustainable Development Goal 13 on climate action. The Sultanate's efforts in that area include holding the Oman Environmental Sustainability Conference in January 2023. It has developed a draft national energy transformation policy, a national zero-carbon 2050 plan and a public transportation plan that reduces greenhouse gas emissions. The Green Schools project was introduced in the 2022–2023 school year to involve additional classes of society. The Ministry of Economy is stepping up environmental sustainability efforts under Sustainable Development Goal 13 by working with Yale and Columbia Universities to improve performance on environmental indicators.

24. The Sultanate of Oman has adopted a number of policies and programmes to enhance women's participation in ensuring environmental sustainability. Women have played an active role in preparing the draft National Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy by supervising the collection of data and information on greenhouse gas emissions from relevant development sectors. They have also assumed senior responsibilities in managing nature reserves in the governorates, taken part in workshops and drafting reports and outputs of the national strategy, and designed climate change mitigation courses at a rate of about 70 per cent. They have been represented on international committees, including the World Commission on Protected Areas, the Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas Programme and the Marine Turtle Specialist Group. They have also taken part in conducting studies on environmental impacts and guiding specialists in the mechanism for implementing the national plan to combat oil pollution and treat waste, and appointing a specialized team to implement integrated awareness campaigns for women in society.

G. Fair trial and access to justice

Recommendations accepted: 134.77, 134.227

25. The Sultanate of Oman has made tireless efforts to realize justice for all, guarantee equality of rights and create an independent judicial system that accelerates and streamlines litigation procedures, enforces judicial rulings effectively and documents transactions in a way that promotes transparency. Royal Decree No. 35/2022 on regulating the administration of judicial affairs was issued to regulate the country's judicial system; bring it under the umbrella of the Supreme Judicial Council; uphold the principle of the rule of law; reinforce the independence of the judiciary; and ensure the highest standards of justice, integrity and transparency. That is to be done through employing qualified human resources using the latest technologies in an environment that promotes local and international partnerships within a well-thought-out national strategy in keeping with the strategic direction of legislative and judicial priorities and oversight laid out in Oman Vision 2040. To complement these efforts, the Sultanate of Oman has developed the strategic plan of the Supreme Judicial Council 2024–2040 and launched the National Plan to Promote Integrity 2022–2030. The Government's Digital Transformation Programme for the Sultanate of Oman seeks to ensure integration of services. A large number of electronic services have been launched in all areas, the most important being the Digital Transformation Project of the Supreme Judicial Council, which has launched the Tawtheeq system and the Council's litigation portal.

26. The Sultanate of Oman also has legislation regulating non-judicial remedies through the establishment of specialized committees, including the following: the Oman Human Rights Commission, reconciliation committees, labour dispute settlement committees, a collective labour dispute arbitration committee and a rental dispute adjudication committee for each governorate.

H. Freedom of opinion and expression and access to information

Recommendations accepted: 134.86, 134.87, 134.90, 134.94, 134.98, 134.100, 134.101, 134.102

Recommendations taken note of: 134.96, 134.106

27. Article 35 of the Basic Law of the State guarantees freedom of expression and opinion for all persons, through speech, writing or any other means of expression. Laws that regulate media, printing, publication and the press include provisions and procedures to protect the exercise of that right.

28. The Media Act issued by Royal Decree No. 58/2024 includes many provisions that promote freedom of opinion and expression, independent journalism and free flow of data and information. The Act emphasizes the rights and freedoms enjoyed by practitioners of media activities in the Sultanate of Oman. It establishes legal protection for practitioners of media activities and the right to obtain information in accordance with the law. Custodial sentences have been excluded from penalties imposed on persons engaging in media activities. The Act regulates both traditional and modern media. In the first six months of 2023, some 201 applications from press and media organizations were processed by the Ministry of Information and its media-licensing department. There were 11 licences issued for radio and television stations, newspapers, and online platforms. Some 279 applications were approved for licences for various media activities, including publicity, advertising, bookstores, printing, photography and billboards. Some 85 licences were issued for artistic and cinematic works; 268 cinematic films and 226 electronic games were licensed. There were total of 492 workers in media and press organizations. From 31 May to 3 June 2022, the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Omani Journalists Association, hosted the Global Congress of the General Assembly of the International Federation of Journalists. The conference received local, regional and international attention as the most prominent journalistic and media event in the Middle East region. A number of journalists representing unions and associations from different continents around the world took part in its proceedings. There was wide participation by journalists and media professionals representing newspapers, radio, television stations and electronic newspapers from different countries around the world.

I. Trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery

Recommendations accepted: 134.112, 134.113, 134.114, 134.115, 134.116, 134.117, 134.118, 134.119, 134.120, 134.121, 134.122, 134.123

29. The Sultanate of Oman has seen clear progress in combating the crime of human trafficking. The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking is chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is composed of representatives of various relevant governmental and non-governmental entities. As part of carrying out its work, the Committee submits a periodic report to the Council of Ministers on national efforts to combat human trafficking. Since it was established in 2008, the Committee has played a major role in combating this crime in cooperation with law enforcement agencies, the country's civil society institutions and international organizations. Most recently, a national action plan was adopted for the 2024–2026 period. Through such strategies and plans, the Sultanate of Oman has taken a number of important steps over the past few years, including the following:

- Article 29 of the Labour Act guarantees the right of workers to transfer from one employer to another.
- There has been coordination with several countries to regulate and legalize the worker recruitment process.
- The launch of a national referral system has helped simplify and accelerate procedures for referring victims in human trafficking cases.
- Several human trafficking indicators have been reduced by criminalizing and regulating the acts involved as legal violations punishable by law. That includes

confiscating a worker's passport or any other documents, under the provisions of article 6 of the Labour Act. Deducting payments from a worker in exchange for employing him is prohibited under the provisions of article 31 of that same Act. Transfer of the worker from their original work location to another without need and without their agreement is prohibited under the provisions of article 59 of that same Act. Article 95 prohibits deducting interest on loans and debts owed by the worker to the employer. The aforementioned Act guarantees the worker the right to terminate the employment contract, even if the contract is for a fixed term that has not yet expired, while retaining all his rights, including severance pay, without prejudice to his right to compensation based on the provisions of article 41 of the Labour Act.

- Law enforcement officials have stepped up inspection campaigns to monitor businesses for compliance with the Labour Act's provisions.

30. The National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking prepared national plans for the periods 2018–2020 and 2021–2023, and set forth procedures for providing assistance to trafficking victims. It has followed up by reviewing the successes of those previous national action plans and adopted a new action plan for the period 2024–2026 that aims to find appropriate solutions and strategies to address, prevent and combat the phenomenon of human trafficking in all its forms and manifestations and protect its victims in accordance with the Anti-Human Trafficking Act. The new plan also strengthens regional and international cooperation in this area, adopts best experiences and practices and increases specialized capacities to monitor, investigate, confront and provide care through regular training.

31. A task force was established to combat human trafficking, composed of the competent authorities, to enhance immediate response and provide immediate support to victims.

J. Right to health

Recommendations accepted: 134.69, 134.138, 134.140, 134.141, 134.142, 134.143, 134.144

32. The Sultanate of Oman pays special attention to the health sector. Article 15 of the Basic Law of the State guarantees healthcare and the provision of means of prevention and treatment of diseases and epidemics. Hospitals and private treatment centres are to be established under the supervision of the State. Oman has achieved notable progress in all health indicators and has adopted a national Health 2050 strategy that is in line with international standards and protocols for health service delivery, quality and efficiency. Its goal is to ensure that "the Omani people should live healthy and productive lives by establishing a fair, effective and responsive health system that is well regulated and rooted in the values of the Sultanate of Oman".

33. Article 5 of Royal Decree No. 10/2024 defines the competencies of the Ministry of Health and adopts its organizational structure. It provides that the Ministry of Health shall be competent to organize and provide health services preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic, rehabilitative and other services to all citizens, their families and residents, in accordance with relevant Royal Decrees, laws, regulations and decisions.

34. It covers therapeutic and preventive services as well as implementation of strategic programmes to realize the Sustainable Development Goals to achieve the highest level of individual and community health. As of 2023, the Ministry of Health administered a total number of 194 medical institutions, 21 health complexes and 56 hospitals. As for private health institutions, there were 58 hospitals, 214 general clinics, 296 specialized clinics, 806 medical centres and complexes, 261 dental clinics, 20 medical laboratories, 6 magnetic resonance diagnostic centres and 1,100 pharmacies.

35. In 2022, the Sultanate of Oman became the first country in the Middle East to be certified by the World Health Organization (WHO) as having eliminated mother-to-child transmission of HIV-AIDS. Three medical staff received awards at the 77th meeting of the WHO General Assembly in 2024: the Ihsan Doğramacı Family Health Foundation Prize in recognition of efforts made in women and children's health, the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad

Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Prize for research in health care for the elderly and health promotion, and the Lee Jong-wook Memorial Award for Public Health. That made Oman the first country in the Middle East to have three of its health staff receive WHO awards in the same year.

36. With a view to realizing Sustainable Development Goal 3, the Sultanate of Oman has issued several pieces of health-related legislation, including an act regulating the transfer and transplantation of human organs and tissues issued by Royal Decree No. 44/2025, and an act on biometrics issued by Royal Decree No. 21/2024.

K. Right to education

Recommendations accepted: 134.145, 134.146, 134.148, 134.149, 134.150, 134.151, 134.152.

37. The Sultanate of Oman has devoted considerable attention to integrating human rights and children's rights into its education system. That is one factor that helps improve the quality of life of citizens. Education is one of the most important pillars that helped the country reach a very high level of human development, as confirmed by the Human Development Report 2023–24. The Basic Law of the State provides that education is a cornerstone for the progress of society that the State shall foster and endeavour to disseminate and make accessible to all. It is a right for every citizen, with the goal of building the Omani character, preserving national identity, promoting scientific thinking, developing talents, encouraging innovation, reinforcing cultural and spiritual values, and instilling tolerance and coexistence. The State encourages the establishment of private schools and academies under its supervision. It is working to wipe out illiteracy. Education is compulsory through the primary stage.

38. The attention paid by the Sultanate of Oman to education has been reflected in improvements in education indicators. In 2024, the illiteracy rate in the Sultanate of Oman for Omanis 15 years and older was 4.5 per cent: 2.95 for males and 6.11 for females. In 2024, the illiteracy rate for the 15–44 age group was 0.54 per cent: 0.52 per cent for males and 0.57 per cent for females.

39. The Sultanate of Oman has become a global centre of higher education in terms of the number of universities and colleges of technology and applied sciences. According to statistics for the academic year 2022/2023, there were 71 institutions of higher education in Oman, including 36 government and 35 private institutions, geographically distributed among the governorates.

40. In order to promote the principle of equity and inclusion, school education has achieved gender equality, with a gender parity index of 0.98 per cent for the 2024/2025 academic year. Female enrolment rates in universities and colleges have increased. As of the 2022/2023 academic year, female enrolment in higher education was at 56.1 per cent. Education in the Sultanate of Oman has not overlooked persons with disabilities. The Ministry of Education continues to support special education schools and programmes. Such services cover students with motor, visual, auditory and intellectual disabilities, and other persons with disabilities. They include programmes for learning difficulties, speech and conversation disorders, and the autism spectrum. Starting in the 2005/2006 academic year, the Ministry of Education has run a programme to integrate students with disabilities into primary schools. The Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation allocates 50 domestic scholarships annually for students in this category to study at universities and colleges. Vocational colleges provide training and rehabilitation opportunities for people with disabilities in line with their physical and mental abilities, talents and inclinations.

41. The Ministry of Social Development, represented by the Wafa centres for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities in all governorates, offers rehabilitation and training services for persons with disabilities enrolled at such centres and provides them with education and rehabilitation services at special education and rehabilitation institutions and centres.

L. Human rights education, training courses and awareness

Recommendations accepted: 134.56, 134.58, 134.59, 134.81.

42. The Sultanate of Oman has launched several awareness campaigns, including the Insan campaign launched in March 2021, to spread awareness of human trafficking crimes, related indicators and how to support the Government's efforts to handle cases.

43. Community awareness-raising programmes and activities have been implemented on human rights and international conventions, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Human rights issues, concepts and international conventions are incorporated into training programmes for professionals and workers in all fields related to human rights, including the judiciary. The Ministry of Social Development has worked to link its efforts to the human rights approach.

44. The Ministry of Social Development has signed a memorandum on a cooperation programme with the Higher Judicial Institute to train judges, prosecutors and legal specialists in the Ministry of Social Development on the principles of human rights conventions (women, children, persons with disabilities). Since the memorandum was signed, more than eight such training programmes have been held, with some 382 participants during the years 2019–2024.

M. Violence against women, sexual violence, gender-based violence and discrimination against women

Recommendations accepted: 134.170, 134.171, 134.174, 134.176, 134.178, 134.179, 134.215, 134.166, 134.172, 134.173, 134.65, 134.156, 134.158, 134.198, 134.175, 134.258.

Recommendations taken note of: 134.200, 134.168, 134.186, 134.38, 134.39, 134.161, 134.164, 134.188, 134.256, 134.259, 134.260, 134.261, 134.262, 134.263, 134.264.

45. The Ministry of Social Development focuses efforts on protection for abused women, including women and girls with disabilities, through the services provided by the Protection Home.

46. In conjunction with the 16 Days of Activism to Combat Violence against Women campaign, the Ministry of Social Development launched an awareness campaign under the slogan "Qari Ayn". It has been conducted from 25 November to 10 December during the years 2020–2024. The campaign focuses on broadcasting media awareness messages and educational posters to protect women, and producing and distributing awareness films. There are dialogue and discussion sessions to examine legislation to protect women. Press, radio and television interviews are conducted to discuss the campaign's theme in strategic cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) office for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and private sector organizations.

47. The Ministry of Social Development in the Sultanate of Oman established the Protection Home, which, inter alia, protects abused women and victims of human trafficking, and provides social and psychological care for victims of various types of abuse. The regulation on temporary care homes was issued by Decision No. 392/2024 to protect children and women. It also formed main child protection committee and child protection committees in all governorates of Oman, appointed child protection representatives and set up a child protection 1100 telephone line. In August 2022, it launched the 1555 call centre, which takes general inquiries and inquiries about submissions and reports on child abuse and begging, offers family guidance and counselling, and fields proposals and complaints. The Ministry of Social Development oversees these committees and existing measures in conjunction with the relevant entities, including the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the Royal Oman Police, and non-governmental organizations.

N. Persons with disabilities: Definition, general principles, autonomy and inclusion

Recommendations accepted: 134.208, 134.209, 134.210, 134.211, 134.212, 134.213, 134.214, 134.219, 134.221, 134.216, 134.217, 134.218, 134.220.

48. Oman is currently drafting a new act on the rights of persons with disabilities that is in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. All relevant stakeholders are being included in the process. Workshops have been held to discuss the draft act with the participation of a number of associations for persons with disabilities. Observations from the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities following discussion of the initial report of Oman in 2018 have also been incorporated into the text. The draft act is currently in its final stages and is expected to be enacted in the very near future.

49. As part of efforts by the Ministry of Social Development to rehabilitate persons with disabilities and facilitate their integration into society to play their role alongside other citizens, rehabilitation centres and institutions have been established to provide the necessary rehabilitation and treatment. These institutions include the following:

- The National Autism Centre provides rehabilitation services for children with autism spectrum disorder.
- The Wafa rehabilitation centres for persons with disabilities provide care, rehabilitation and empowerment services for persons with disabilities.

50. With a view to strengthening joint activities and streamlining services to persons with disabilities, the Ministry of Health has worked with the Ministry of Social Development to link data related to the diagnosis and medical evaluation of persons with disabilities electronically. That linkage would create common database. The Ministry of Health has also strengthened the monitoring and review system for neonatal mortality, which covers children with disabilities. In 2023, it assessed that system in cooperation with the World Health Organization to identify all causes of neonatal mortality and associated factors, analyze those causes and develop proposals to reduce deaths.

51. With regard to the training curriculum for all health professionals, in 2022, the Ministry of Health issued and circulated standard operating procedures for primary health care services that cover the needs of persons with disabilities. Training workshops are held in all the governorates to train health workers on how to deal with persons with disabilities. Some 120 have received training thus far.

52. Educational services for students with disabilities are also provided through specialized schools such as the Fikriyah school for intellectual disabilities, the Amal school for the deaf, and the Omar bin Khattab Institute for the blind. There are also programmes to integrate persons with disabilities into regular government schools in the governorates.

53. Several facilities have also been provided for persons with disabilities in connection with certain social development services, as follows:

- Persons with disabilities are granted a special card. As of 2022, there were 2,325 persons registered. By the end of 2024, that number was 8,604.
- Rehabilitation services can be purchased from private centres.
- Parking permits are issued for people with disabilities and medical conditions, both citizens and residents.
- A playground has been set aside for children with disabilities.
- As of the end of 2022, the total number of persons with disabilities provided with prosthetic and assistive devices was 5,274. By 2024, the total number of beneficiaries of prosthetic devices was 10,795.

O. Children: Definition, general principles, protection, family environment, alternative care, protection from exploitation and juvenile justice

Recommendations accepted: 134.203, 134.204, 134.204, 134.205, 134.202, 134.207, 134.78

54. With its Ministerial Decision No. 65/2023, the Ministry of Social Development established the main Child Protection Committee, chaired by the Ministry's Undersecretary and composed of the heads of the child protection committees in the governorates, to oversee and follow up the work of those governorate committees.

55. As part of the Sultanate's efforts to make further progress in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goals 4 and 16, a Social Work Strategy 2016–2025 and a National Childhood Strategy 2016–2025 were developed. Those strategies are supplementary to the national action plan of the United Nations Children's Fund Country Programme. They include many programmes and projects that address children's issues. The Ministry of Social Development oversees the two strategies and follows up on their implementation with a number of entities.

56. Reflecting the importance that Oman attaches to children, the Social Protection Act provides for a child benefit. Every child is entitled to a child benefit, provided that the child is Omani, under the age of 18 and a resident of the Sultanate of Oman. There have been 1,236,501 beneficiaries of the child benefit.

57. The National Committee for Family Affairs has adopted a training programme on forensic interviewing of children. Its goal is to qualify specialists in the relevant sectors, including the Royal Oman Police, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Development, who deal directly with cases of children exposed to abuse. Those specialists are qualified to conduct interviews of child abuse victims according to scientific principles and international methodology. The project also aims to reduce the number of interviews for child abuse victims from five interviews to only one.

Prosecution offices in all governorates of Oman have assigned prosecutors to deal with juvenile cases.

P. Rights related to name, identity and nationality

Recommendation accepted: 134.257

58. According to Article 19 of the Basic Law of the State, Omani nationality is regulated by law and may not be revoked or withdrawn except within the limits of the law. In light of this, the Omani Nationality Act was enacted by Royal Decree No. 17/2025.

59. The legislation is intended to regulate nationality within a modern legal framework. The Nationality Act aims to strengthen, facilitate and simplify the legal controls associated with the acquisition, loss and recovery of nationality. The most prominent amendments to the new law include the following:

(a) A ministerial decision is required approving the renunciation of Omani nationality. Under the new law, renunciation of nationality is conditional on the issuance of an explicit decision by the Minister, and the decision is an essential condition for the completion of the act of renunciation. This is to strengthen the principle of administrative control, ensure that the procedures are consistent with the public interest and ensure that the renunciation is serious.

(b) On the right to regain Omani nationality after losing it, the new Act provides for the right of Omani men and women to recover Omani nationality lost by renunciation, in accordance with conditions and procedures specified by the Act. That allows for restoration of the legal status of citizen in cases that meet the legal conditions, and guarantees the right of minor children to recover the nationality of their father in order to protect them from statelessness.

(c) A child born in the Sultanate of Oman or abroad to an Omani or foreign mother has the right to acquire Omani nationality, even if the father loses his original Omani nationality. That is to protect the child in accordance with the fundamental rights of the child as enunciated in international conventions.

(d) A child born to unknown parents in the Sultanate of Oman or to an Omani mother inside or outside the Sultanate of Oman, provided they are not proven to have a legitimate father, has the right to be granted Omani nationality. That is to extend the legal protection of the child and to ensure that they enjoy the nationality of the Sultanate of Oman.

Q. General framework for implementation, scope of international obligations, cooperation with human rights mechanisms, requests for technical assistance and national human rights plans

Recommendations accepted: 134.257, 134.45, 134.48, 134.51, 134.43, 134.52, 134.255, 134.57.

Recommendations taken note of: 134.253, 134.41, 134.42.

60. The Ministry of Labour and other relevant authorities are currently drafting comprehensive legislation for domestic workers that protects the rights of this category of worker in line with international standards. The Sultanate of Oman hopes to complete the drafting of the legislation and enact it in the near future. Memorandums of understanding are currently being concluded with a number of countries that confirm the commitment of Oman to granting this category of workers all rights in accordance with international standards, which are also provided for in the Labour Act.

61. In 2022, the Sultanate of Oman prepared its fourth periodic national report for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The report was reviewed at the interactive dialogue session held at the Convention Committee's headquarters in Geneva on 7 February 2024. Following that dialogue, concluding observations and recommendations issued by the Committee were adopted, and a national action plan was developed to follow up implementation of those recommendations.

62. The Sultanate of Oman has focused on operationalizing and realizing the goals, axes and objectives of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. It has incorporated them into its five-year development plans. The Sultanate of Oman submitted its first voluntary national review in 2019 and its second voluntary national review in July 2024. Those reports show the progress made in the sustainable development goals in the Sultanate of Oman. The Sultanate of Oman was ranked fourth in the Arab world in the 2024 Social Progress Index report. That reflects the level of prosperity, social protection and enjoyment of rights as established in the Basic Law of the State.

63. A number of different groups in Oman, including the Oman Human Rights Commission, have held training courses and workshops for the staff of government agencies and civil society organizations to build their knowledge and capacities in the following important human rights-related fields: international treaties, the rights of women, the rights of the child, international humanitarian law, rights and freedoms, and combating human trafficking. This has been possible thanks to cooperation with United Nations agencies as well as with other States and non-governmental agencies active in those areas.

64. Many programmes and activities have been implemented in cooperation with United Nations regional organizations (ESCWA, UNFPA, UN-Women) and Arab organizations (the women's department of the League of Arab States, Arab Women's Organization, the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) and others). Programmes and activities have been adopted to empower women and increase their participation in all fields.

65. On 9 December 2024, in cooperation with the League of Arab States, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the United Nations Entity for the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Sultanate of Oman organized the high-level meeting on the 30-year regional review of the Beijing Declaration

and Platform for Action. That meeting produced the Muscat Declaration on Progress in Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the Arab Region after 30 Years. The Sultanate also hosted the 12th session of the ESCWA Committee on Women, at which the results of the 2024 update of the gender justice and law report were presented.

R. Cooperation and consultation with civil society, human rights and counter-terrorism, and freedom of association

Recommendations accepted: 134.103, 134.104, 134.105, 134.108, 134.72, 134.110.

66. Article 40 of the Basic Law of the State guarantees the freedom to form associations.

67. The Associations Act further guarantees the right to form associations and to lodge grievances with the courts against decrees of the Ministry of Social Development that affect civil society associations. The Act gives the associations' administrative boards the right to administer associations in line with their own statutes and under the supervision of their general assembly.

68. The Government has worked to streamline the registration system for associations and the procedures followed for establishing them. It wants to encourage the growth of a civil society active in development and human rights programmes. As of 2024, the number of civil and charitable associations and their members was as follows:

Association type	Total associations and branches	Total members		
		Male	Female	Total members
Omani Women's Association	68	0	13 570	13 570
Charitable associations	32	3 782	2 390	6 172
Charitable foundations	10	59	22	81
Professional associations	41	6 267	2 239	8 506
Social clubs for expatriates	23	2 534	688	3 222
Total	174	12 642	18 909	31 551

69. All the relevant national agencies take part in regional and international conferences, meetings and activities on human rights in a counter-terrorism context.

S. Civil and political rights, general implementation procedures and freedom of thought, belief and religion

Recommendations accepted: 134.89, 134.91, 134.92, 134.93, 134.95, 134.99, 134.111, 134.165, 134.166, 134.82, 134.84, 134.85

Recommendations taken note of: 134.88, 134.97, 134.109.

70. The Sultanate of Oman has devoted attention to increasing community participation and increasing the effectiveness of the important role played by the Shura Council. The Shura Council Members Election Act issued by Royal Decree No. 54/2023 completed the modernization of the Sultanate's legislative system. It represents a qualitative leap by creating clear regulations for the electoral process and related procedures. It maps the path of the electoral process with clarity and accuracy, defines operational mechanisms and implementation requirements, and allows more space for grievances during the nomination period and the announcement of the initial or final lists.

71. Omani women enjoy the right to vote and run for office. They have been pioneers among the GCC States. In 1994, women became members of the Shura Council. Women were represented at a rate of [65.48] per cent among voters in the Shura Council elections for the period 2023–2024. The 146 current municipal council members who are not representatives of government agencies include one woman elected and 11 women appointed.

72. The Sultanate of Oman is noted for its many religious confessions, local dialects and ethnic groups, all of which are woven into a single human social tapestry from which has emerged an authentic Omani character. The Sultanate also welcomes workers from numerous countries and cultures, which creates a wide spectrum of cultures, creed and customs.

73. Article 34 of the Basic Law of the State provides that freedom to practice religious rituals in accordance with recognized customs is protected, provided it does not violate public order or go against morals. The Government seeks to facilitate the establishment of places of worship for different religions, to which end it provides plots of building land free of charge. All persons are free to practice their religious rites and rituals in an atmosphere of religious tolerance and coexistence, enshrining the true meaning of the concept of freedom of worship.

T. Economic, social and cultural rights, general implementation measures, labour rights and the right to work

Recommendations accepted: 134.147, 134.132, 134.133, 134.134, 134.136, 134.137, 134.139, 134.83, 134.125, 134.126, 134.128, 134.130, 134.131, 134.222, 134.223, 134.224, 134.225, 134.226, 134.228, 134.229, 134.230, 134.231, 134.233, 134.234, 134.235, 134.236, 134.237, 134.238, 134.239, 134.240, 134.241, 134.242, 134.243, 134.244, 134.244, 134.245, 134.246, 134.247, 134.249, 134.250, 134.251, 134.124, 134.135.

Recommendations taken note of: 134.127, 134.232, 134.248.

74. In 2022, the Sultanate of Oman submitted its first report under articles 16 and 17 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to the United Nations in Geneva.

75. The State attaches the utmost importance to providing social insurance services to citizens. It guarantees them assistance in cases of emergency, sickness, disability and old age. It endeavours to ensure community solidarity in bearing the burdens resulting from disasters and public calamities, and providing citizens with healthcare and means of prevention and treatment for diseases and epidemics. It encourages the establishment of private hospitals and treatment centres under its supervision.

76. The Social Protection Act issued by Royal Decree No. 52/2023 regulates a number of benefits that the Social Protection Fund is responsible for providing to beneficiaries. They include the old-age benefit, a monthly cash benefit for every Omani over 60. This benefit targets the elderly to make up for the reduced earning capacity of this age group. There were 167,687 registered beneficiaries of this benefit as of the end of December 2024. There is also a monthly cash benefit that targets persons with disabilities whose condition requires care and support, whether the disability is congenital or due to an illness developed later in life. There were 42,253 registered beneficiaries of this benefit as of the end of December 2024.

77. The Act also regulates a number of social insurance subsidiary branches, most notably old age, disability and death insurance; on-the-job injury and occupational disease insurance; job security; and maternity leave, sick leave and unusual leave.

78. By Royal Decree No. 2/2024, the Sultanate of Oman set up a National Emergency Fund to address emergencies and natural disasters, including weather events, floods, earthquakes and other risks to which the country is exposed that cause damage to public facilities and infrastructure.

79. The Social Protection Act provides for a set of labour-related types of insurance, including for on-the-job injury, occupational disease, job security, maternity leave, sick leave and unusual leave insurance. In order to protect the rights of migrant workers, article 61 of the Labour Act provides for end-of-service compensation for migrant workers. Chapter IV, articles 135–144, of the Social Protection Act and Chapter VI, articles (96–114) of its implementing regulations issued by Decision No. *ra*/7/2023 set forth the savings scheme from for non-Omani workers. This system is the basis for covering end-of-service compensation for non-Omani workers. The savings programme can also be used as a support programme for retirement plans, bearing in mind that the Labour Act defines the minimum

conditions that the employer must fulfil. These represent basic rights that all workers must enjoy and there can be no agreement that violates them.

80. Chapter 7 of the Labour Act grants the right to form trade unions, sectoral unions and a General Federation of Workers, which enjoy an independent legal personality. The purpose of their establishment is to promote the interests of workers, defend their rights, improve their material and social conditions, and represent them in all matters related to their interests. A union member may not be dismissed because of union activity. According to the statistics of the Department of Trade Union Organizations at the Ministry of Labour, as of the end of 2024, Oman had 334 trade unions and eight sectoral unions. In 2021, there were 306 unions and seven sectoral unions. In 2023 there were 327 trade unions and seven sectoral unions.

81. The Sultanate of Oman has continued to take necessary measures on two levels: A wage protection system was issued by Ministerial Decision No. 729/2024. It is a joint electronic system between the Ministry of Labour and the Central Bank of Oman to monitor and follow up wage disbursement processes in private sector establishments to ensure compliance with the transfer of wages to employee accounts in accredited local banks. That must be done at the time and in the amount specified in the labour contract, as stipulated by the Labour Act. The Ministry is thus always aware of wage disbursement processes and any delay in delivering wages, so that it can take proactive measures to ensure that workers receive their wages and avert labour disputes.

82. In the five years from 2020 to 2024, the Ministry of Labour administered several programmes to raise awareness among workers and employers about their rights under current labour laws and ministerial decrees. During the 2020–2024 period there were 6,404 individual and 193 group awareness-raising programmes with a total of 9,511 beneficiaries. In that same connection, the Ministry organized field visits to workers at their places of work, during which manuals in 12 different languages were distributed containing information on workers' rights and duties, awareness-raising guides were handed out and individual interviews were conducted with workers to answer their queries.

83. The Sultanate of Oman is continuously working to upgrade its system to bring it into line with international standards in cooperation with the International Labor Organization (ILO) through the National Decent Work Programme. During the 2022–2025 period, extensions of the Memorandum of Understanding were signed between the three parties in the production process and ILO is a basic foundation for the country to keep pace with implementation of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization.

84. The Labour Act guarantees stability for workers with disabilities in the work environment by stipulating in article 12, paragraph 1 that termination by an employer of an employment contract shall be considered an arbitrary dismissal of the worker if the termination is for any of the following reasons: sex, origin, colour, language, religion, creed, social status, disability, pregnancy, childbirth or lactation (in the case of working women).

85. The provisions of the Social Protection Act take into account the category of female employees with disabilities. They may request early retirement subject to discounted rates up to 15 years earlier than the usual age for senior citizens, provided that their period of active service while suffering from a disability was at least 15 years. They may request early retirement not subject to discounted rates up to 10 years earlier than the usual age for senior citizens, provided they fulfil the aforementioned length of service requirement. This category can also retire when their disability prevents them from being able to work, as certified by a report from a licensed health institution. In such a case, they can receive a retirement pension if the period of participation in the disability insurance was six continuous months or 12 months intermittently, of which at least three must have been continuous, prior to incurring the disability.

86. The Labour Act is in line with the Anti-Human Trafficking Law. It punishes practices that fall under the crime of human trafficking, such as forced labour, with stricter penalties for violators, and strengthens regulation of employment of migrant workers in the Sultanate of Oman. The Government has also signed several memorandums of understanding with countries of origin to regulate the recruitment of human resources and preserve their rights through periodic meetings with the parties involved. These memorandums include a clause that allows exchange of information between countries to prevent illegal recruitment of

human resources and human trafficking. The new National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking was adopted for the 2021–2023 period. A dedicated section was created within the inspection department of the Ministry of Labour to combat trafficking, identify cases of forced labour and ensure that victims receive the necessary legal protection.

U. Empowerment of women

Recommendations accepted: 134.61, 134.153, 134.154, 134.157, 134.159, 134.160, 134.163, 134.167, 134.177, 134.180, 134.181, 134.182, 134.183, 134.184, 134.185, 134.187, 134.189, 134.190, 134.191, 134.192, 134.193, 134.194, 134.195, 134.196, 134.197, 134.199.

Recommendations taken note of: 134.62.

87. The Ministry of Social Development adopts programmes and activities in cooperation with partners aimed at integrating women in all fields. It also cooperates with regional and international organizations in the area of women’s empowerment, keeps abreast of regional and global developments and makes use of successful practices and experiences in the area of women’s empowerment.

88. Oman Vision 2040 sets forth national priorities for welfare and social protection under the strategic orientation of “a sustainable and decent life for all”. This orientation has a number of goals, including an aware and cohesive society that is socially and economically empowered. It applies especially to women, children, youth, people with disabilities and the most vulnerable groups. The tenth five-year plan (2021–2025) was the first implementation plan adopted under Oman Vision 2040. It included a number of programmes and activities aimed at empowering women and children politically and economically.

89. Women took part in preparation of the tenth five-year plan at an overall average rate of 30 per cent. The percentage of women in the central working group for preparation of the plan reached 60 per cent. They participated in workshops, technical and coordination meetings, and virtual meetings, as well as in setting the plan’s priorities. Their participation was 51 per cent in the welfare and social protection priority, 59 per cent in the governance of the State administrative apparatus and human resources priority, 37 per cent in the developing the youth sector priority and 36 per cent in the environment and natural resources priority.

90. Through its national strategies, Oman has continued to step up efforts to empower women. One such effort is the Social Action Strategy (2016–2025) of the Ministry of Social Development, which consists of a general reference framework and six axes, all of which reflect a gender perspective. They are as follows: social protection, social welfare, development of families and society, rights of persons with disabilities, civil society association and institutions, and institutional support. Gender indicators and gender-responsive budgets are the basis of the action plans associated with the Strategy, which includes plans and programmes intended to ensure women can live dignified lives and to promote their participation in the sustainable development process.

91. The Council of Ministers includes female ministers. Four women had been appointed undersecretaries as of the end of 2024. There have been 18 women appointed members of the State Council for the eighth term (2023–2027), in accordance with Royal Decree No. 75/2023. That comes to 21 per cent of Council’s membership. There were seven Omani women appointed to the Sultanate’s missions abroad as of the end of 2023. In 2024 there were 45 Omani diplomats in missions abroad, in addition to 15 chief executives.

V. Other

Reservations

Recommendations taken note of: 134.37, 134.40.

Death penalty

Recommendations taken note of: 134.73, 134.74, 134.75, 134.76.

92. The death penalty is one of the penalties provided for in the Penal Code issued by Royal Decree No. 7/2018. It is imposed for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes such as aggravated murder, piracy, vandalism with loss of life and trafficking in certain types of narcotic substances. It is prescribed in order to protect the victim's right to life, whether directly or indirectly.

93. Article 302 of the Penal Code prescribes the death penalty in murder cases only in cases of premeditated murder and only if one of the conditions for the most serious crimes is met. The death penalty is replaced by absolute life imprisonment or a term of not less than five and not more than 16 years if the victim's family pardons or accepts blood money at any stage of the proceedings or before execution had been carried out.

94. Omani legislation circumscribes implementation of the death penalty with a number of mandatory safeguards designed to ensure the validity of the sentence imposed on the convicted person. These are expressly set forth in the Code of Criminal Procedure as follows:

- The death penalty must be handed down by a criminal court consisting of three judges; the verdict must be unanimous.
- An opinion must be sought from a committee formed by order of His Majesty the Sultan. If such an opinion is not received by the court within 60 days following receipt of the papers, the court shall rule on the case. If unanimity is not reached, the death penalty is replaced by the penalty of life in prison.
- According to the Juvenile Act, anyone under the age of 18 may not be sentenced to death. The death penalty is replaced by temporary imprisonment.

95. In 2022, four death sentences were handed down, as opposed to 11 in 2021.

IV. Implementation status of voluntary pledges

96. The Sultanate of Oman has implemented most of its obligations under the human rights conventions to which it is a party. As it submits its fourth report for the universal periodic review, the Sultanate pledges to accomplish the following:

- (a) Finalize procedures to accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- (b) Finalize procedures to accede to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;
- (c) Consider acceding to the Convention on Cluster Munitions;
- (d) Complete the necessary procedures to accede to the Convention against Discrimination in Education;
- (e) Continue to cooperate on human rights with agencies, mechanisms and committees of the United Nations in order to facilitate their activities and the implementation of their programmes, and to meet its obligations towards those agencies and mechanisms;
- (f) Make comprehensive efforts at the national level to protect the rights of workers by taking the necessary institutional and legislative steps;
- (g) Continue efforts to realize the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those that have a bearing on human rights;

- (h) Work to raise the level of political awareness and to disseminate a culture of political participation;
- (i) Develop the operational mechanisms of human rights commissions and agencies in accordance with the best international standards;
- (j) Work towards fulfilling the obligations arising from accession to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- (k) Work to expedite enactment of a draft act on the rights of persons with disabilities;
- (l) Work to expedite enactment of the new draft act on combating trafficking in persons.

V. Achievements and best practices

Achievements

97. The Sultanate of Oman has occupied leading positions in international indexes, including but not limited to the following:

- (a) E-Government Development Index 2024 (the Ministry of Social Development intends to update the data and statistics in items (a) to (d) as they do not cover the current reporting period): The overall score of Oman in the 2024 Index, compared to the 2022 Index, increased to 0.8576. Its international ranking jumped by nine to 41st internationally, after being ranked 50th out of 193 countries around the world.
- (b) Human Development Report Index 2023: Oman advanced in the overall Index score in the 2023 edition, scoring 0.819 out of 1.
- (c) Oman ranked first in the world in absence of terrorist incidents in 2019, which is a reflection of the security and political stability the country enjoys.
- (d) Transparency and Anti-Corruption Index: The Sultanate's international ranking went up by 20 ranks and its score by 12 out of 100. Its ranking among Gulf States went up to fourth place.
- (e) Competitiveness Index: The Sultanate of Oman ranked 59th in the Human Development Report. Its development index in the latest 2023/2024 edition was 0.819, placing Oman among the countries with very high human development. Oman has been commended by United Nations Human Development Reports for its progress on the Sustainable Development Goals indicators.
- (f) Global Innovation Index: Oman received a score of 27.1 in the 2024 Index. Its score in 2023 had been 28.4. Its international ranking went down by five, to 74th out of 133 countries.
- (g) Network Readiness Index 2024: The Sultanate's ranking in the Index went up by four internationally and one in the Gulf. Its score increased to 53.52 in 2024 from 52.1 in 2023.
- (h) Environmental Performance Index 2024: The Sultanate of Oman advanced in the Index for the year 2024, ranking 55th internationally, an increase of 94 compared to 2022. Its score increased to 51.3, and it ranked second among the GCC countries in the index.
- (i) Worldwide Governance Index: The scores of Oman on most of the global governance indicators included in Oman Vision 2040 increased. That includes the rule of law indicator (70.2 out of 100), the regulatory quality indicator (66.5 out of 100), and the government effectiveness indicator (62.2 out of 100).
- (j) Economic Freedom Index 2025: The score of Oman in economic freedom increased in 2025 to 65.4 out of 100 compared to 62.9 out of 100 in 2024. It ranked

58th globally. Its economy was classified as “moderately free”, especially in the government spending indicator, which was 70.8 in 2025, up from 59.4 in 2024; the investment freedom indicator, which was 70 in 2025, up from 60 in 2024; and the financial freedom indicator, which was 60 in 2024, up from 50 in 2024.

VI. Challenges and priorities

98. The approach taken by Oman stands out for its transparency, gradualness and successful harmonization of its legislative and regulatory framework with the country’s international human rights obligations.

(a) The country is heavily dependent on oil for its income, and it is no secret that oil prices have fluctuated wildly over recent years, falling to relatively low levels. This has had an impact on implementation of the strategies the country had drafted previously.

(b) There is a lack of effective and transparent cooperation mechanisms with certain countries of origin of migrant workers that might enable an effective approach to human rights.

99. The Sultanate of Oman is determined to achieve certain priorities to support and promote human rights in the State. They include the following:

(a) Strengthening and developing the role of specialized national mechanisms to protect human rights, in order to keep pace with international developments;

(b) Creating a national human rights workforce and providing them with training;

(c) Disseminating human rights culture more broadly and strengthening its presence in various professional and academic fields.

VII. Conclusion

100. Oman stresses that it is continuing its efforts to promote and protect human rights through legislation, national laws and the fulfilment of international obligations in the light of domestic legislative developments. The Sultanate of Oman is resolved to continue to move forwards and build on its achievements in the field of human rights within the framework of Oman Vision 2024. It engages positively and proactively with international best standards. It stresses its commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Sultanate of Oman looks forward to continuing its cooperation with the Human Rights Council, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the universal periodic review mechanism with a view to further promoting and protecting human rights at the national level and around the world, in order to guarantee the highest living standards and ensure that people everywhere can live safe, dignified and stable lives.