



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
23 June 2021  
English  
Original: Arabic

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## Human Rights Council

Forty-seventh session

21 June–9 July 2021

Agenda item 6

Universal periodic review

## Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review\*

### Oman

#### Addendum

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

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\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



## Introduction

1. The Sultanate of Oman has carefully studied the recommendations it received during the third cycle of the universal periodic review. It is convinced of the importance of the universal periodic review mechanism for the development of human rights in all countries of the world.

2. The Sultanate has reacted positively to all the recommendations, even those that it has not accepted.

3. When accepting the recommendations, it took into account their legal implications, its ability to fulfil resulting obligations and the cultural context, as well as economic, social and regional challenges.

4. Oman received 264 recommendations, of which it accepts 208, takes note of 49 and partially accepts/takes note of 7. This reflects its positive interaction with the universal periodic review mechanism.

5. Before presenting its position on the recommendations, Oman wishes to affirm the following:

(a) There are no “migrant workers” in Oman, but rather “expatriate workers”. Oman seeks to protect the rights of this category of workers in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. In response to the recommendations that use the term “migrants”, it notes that it has endeavoured to improve the situation of these workers regardless of their legal description.

(b) There is no *kafala* sponsorship system in Oman. In response to the recommendations concerning the *kafala* system, it notes that these are either recommendations that have already been implemented or that relate to some illegal sponsorship practices that the Sultanate is seeking to combat and eliminate.

(c) The calls for the Sultanate of Oman to ratify optional protocols before having ratified the relevant treaties are premature. The Sultanate will study all optional protocols after it has completed the procedures for ratifying the corresponding international treaties, without this constituting an obligation for it to accede to those protocols.

(d) The State has the right to enter reservations in accordance with its own interests and prevailing principles. States may not be deprived of this legally established right.

6. The positions of Oman concerning the recommendations are set out below:

1	Accepted	
2	Accepted	
3	Accepted	
5	Accepted	
4 and 6	Accepted/noted	The Sultanate has accepted the part of the recommendation concerning the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and has taken note of the part on accession to the two optional protocols.
7	Noted	The application of the Rome Statute is contrary to a number of laws in force.
8–10	Accepted/noted	The Sultanate has accepted the part of the recommendation concerning the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and has taken note of the part on accession to the two optional protocols.
11	Accepted/noted	The Sultanate has accepted the part of the recommendation concerning the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It has taken note of the part concerning the death penalty. It is not possible to commute all death

		sentences to prison sentences, as this comes under the jurisdiction of the judiciary, whose work may not be interfered with.
12–25	Accepted	
26	Noted	
27	Accepted	
28	Noted	
29	Noted	
30 and 31	Noted	
32	Accepted	Oman will consider acceding to the Convention, without making any prior commitment to do so.
33 and 34	Noted	
35 and 36	Noted	Oman will consider acceding to the Treaty, without making any prior commitment to do so.
37–40	Noted	Each State has the right to enter reservations at its own discretion and in its own interests. Oman will study these reservations, without committing to a given outcome.
41 and 42	Noted	Oman cooperates with the human rights mechanisms by reporting to the committees concerned with the conventions to which it is a party. It considers the requests it receives on a case-by-case basis and does not intend to extend a standing invitation.
43	Accepted	Each of these mechanisms is considered individually.
44–48	Accepted	
49	Accepted	
50	Accepted	This commitment is limited to the international conventions to which Oman has acceded.
51	Accepted	
52	Accepted	
53	Accepted	
54	Accepted	
55–59	Accepted	
60	Accepted	
61	Accepted	
62	Noted	The Basic Law of the State prohibits discrimination against citizens on grounds of sex.
63	Noted	
64	Accepted	
65	Accepted	
66	Accepted	
67 and 68	Noted	
69	Accepted	
70 and 71	Accepted	
72	Accepted	
73	Noted	The death penalty is imposed under Omani law only for the most serious crimes. It is accompanied by numerous safeguards, which ensure that the scope of its application remains as narrow as possible and that all judicial guarantees are made available prior to its confirmation, including a mandatory appeal procedure before the Supreme Court.

74–76	Noted	
77	Accepted	
78	Accepted	
79	Accepted	
80	Accepted	
81–85	Accepted	
86	Accepted	
87	Accepted	
88	Noted	Provisions of the Penal Code and the Press and Publications Act do not affect the right of individuals to freedom of opinion and expression so long as this right is exercised in accordance with the law and does not disrupt public order.
89 and 90	Accepted	
91–93	Accepted	Oman reserves the right to regulate freedom of expression and association in accordance with the provisions of the Basic Law of the State and the international agreements to which it has acceded.
94 and 95	Accepted	While Oman reserves its right to regulate freedom of expression and association in accordance with the provisions of the Basic Law of the State and the international agreements to which it has acceded, criminalization is limited to cases of disturbance of public order only.
96	Noted	Work is under way on amending the two laws in line with the provisions of the Basic Law of the State and the international agreements to which Oman has acceded.
97	Noted	Provisions of the Penal Code and the Press and Publications Act do not affect the right of individuals to freedom of opinion and expression so long as this right is exercised in accordance with the law and does not disrupt public order.
98	Accepted	
99	Accepted	Those who exercise freedom of opinion and expression within the framework established by law are not subject to detention.
100	Accepted	
101	Accepted	
102	Accepted	Oman reserves the right to regulate the law on the media and the law on civil society associations in accordance with the provisions of the Basic Law of the State and the international agreements to which it has acceded.
103–105	Accepted	
106	Noted	
107	Accepted	
108	Accepted	The practice of such activities should be in accordance with the applicable laws.
109	Noted	
110 and 111	Accepted	
112–114	Accepted	
115	Accepted	
116–123	Accepted	

124	Accepted	
125	Accepted	
126	Accepted	
127	Noted	Regulations on domestic work will be adopted that set out all domestic workers' rights.
128	Accepted	
129	Accepted	Regulations on domestic work will be adopted that set out all domestic workers' rights.
130	Accepted	
131	Accepted	The certificate of "no objection" has already been revoked under Decree No. 157/2020, which amended some provisions of the implementing regulations of the Foreigners' Residency Act.
132	Accepted	
133	Accepted	
134	Accepted	
135	Accepted	
136	Accepted	
137	Accepted	
138	Accepted	
139	Accepted	
140	Accepted	
141	Accepted	
142	Accepted	
143	Accepted	
144	Accepted	
145	Accepted	
146	Accepted	
147	Accepted	In Oman there are international schools and schools for expatriate communities governed by regulations issued by the Ministry of Education.
148	Accepted	
149	Accepted	Article 16 (2) of the Basic Law of the State on cultural principles stipulates that "education is compulsory until the end of basic education". Article 36 of the Children's Code promulgated by Royal Decree No. 22/2014 establishes that education is free and compulsory until completion of post-primary education.
150	Accepted	
151	Accepted	Education is compulsory until the end of basic education.
152	Accepted	
153	Accepted	
154	Accepted	
155	Accepted	
156	Accepted	
157	Accepted	
158	Accepted	
159	Accepted	
160	Accepted	

161	Noted	Oman constantly reviews and develops its laws in accordance with the provisions of the Basic Law of the State and international treaties to which it is a party, which become part of domestic law once ratified.
162	Accepted	
163	Accepted	
164	Noted	
165	Accepted	
166	Accepted	
167	Accepted	
168	Noted	National legislation ensures that women are protected from all forms of violence and abuse.
169	Noted	National legislation ensures that women are protected from all forms of violence and abuse.
170	Accepted	National legislation ensures that women are protected from all forms of violence and abuse. It should be noted that, under Omani legislation, the perpetrators of “honour” crimes are punished.
171	Accepted	
172	Accepted	
173	Accepted	
174	Accepted	
175	Accepted	
176	Accepted	The implementing regulations of the Children’s Code issued by way of Resolution No. 125/2019 criminalize all traditional practices that are harmful to children’s health, including female genital mutilation by whatever means, and the perpetrators of such acts are liable to a prison sentence of between 6 months and 3 years.
177–179	Accepted	
180	Accepted	There is no gender pay gap in Oman. In the public sector, there is a standard salary scale applicable to all employees without discrimination, which is based on academic qualifications and experience. In the private sector, employment contracts are based on qualifications and relevant experience and there is no wage discrimination.
181–185	Accepted	
186	Noted	
187	Accepted	
188	Noted	The content of articles 225 and 226 of the current Penal Code does not correspond to what is mentioned in the recommendation.
189–197	Accepted	
198	Accepted	There is no gender pay gap in Oman. Legislation regulating employment in the public and private sectors requires equal pay for equal work, regardless of gender.
199	Accepted	
200	Noted	
201	Accepted	
202	Accepted	

203	Accepted	
204	Accepted	
205	Accepted	
206	Accepted	
207	Accepted	
208	Accepted	
209	Accepted	
210	Accepted	
211	Accepted	
212	Accepted	
213	Accepted	
214	Accepted	
215	Accepted	
216	Accepted	
217	Accepted	
218	Accepted	
219	Accepted	
220	Accepted	
221	Accepted	
222	Accepted	
223	Accepted	The right to take legal action is guaranteed to all persons in Oman, including domestic workers.
224	Accepted	
225	Accepted	
226	Accepted	
227	Accepted	Access to justice and remedies is available to expatriate workers in Oman.
228	Accepted	The Ministry of Labour has, for quite some time, been concluding memorandums of understanding and cooperation with sending countries to enhance the protection of workers and guarantee their rights.
229	Accepted	The certificate of “no objection” has already been revoked under Decree No. 157/2020, which amended some provisions of the implementing regulations of the Foreigners’ Residency Act.
230	Accepted	
231	Accepted	
232	Noted	
233	Accepted	
234	Accepted	
235	Accepted	Expatriate workers are migrant workers contracted for a specified period.
236	Accepted	
237	Accepted	The Ministry of Labour has, for quite some time, been concluding memorandums of understanding with sending countries to enhance the protection of workers and guarantee their rights.
238	Accepted	Regulations on domestic work will be adopted that set out all domestic workers’ rights.
239	Accepted	The certificate of “no objection” has already been revoked under Decree No. 157/2020, which amended

		some provisions of the implementing regulations of the Foreigners' Residency Act.
240	Accepted	The certificate of "no objection" has already been revoked under Decree No. 157/2020, which amended some provisions of the implementing regulations of the Foreigners' Residency Act.
241	Accepted	
242	Accepted	The provisions on domestic workers will be contained in separate regulations.
243	Accepted	The provisions on domestic workers will be contained in separate regulations.
244	Accepted	Oman constantly reviews its labour laws to ensure a balance between the rights of workers and employers.
245	Accepted	Expatriate workers are migrant workers contracted for a specified period.
246	Accepted	Expatriate workers are migrant workers contracted for a specified period.
247	Accepted	
248	Noted	
249	Accepted	Taking into account the State's commitment to implementing its national laws and the agreements to which it is a party.
250	Accepted	Oman has adopted a wage protection system, under which employers are required to transfer workers' wages to their bank accounts.
251	Accepted	The laws in force in Oman do not discriminate between foreign workers. The Ministry of Labour has, for quite some time, been concluding memorandums of understanding with sending countries to enhance the protection of workers and guarantee their rights.
252	Noted	
253	Noted	All States have the right to enter reservations in accordance with their own interests.
254	Noted	
255	Accepted	
256	Noted	There is equal treatment of citizens in terms of the services enjoyed by sons and daughters born to an Omani woman and a foreign husband.
257	Accepted	
258	Accepted/noted	The recommendation concerning the continued advancement of women's equality in all areas of society is accepted and note is taken of the rest of the recommendation.
259	Noted	
260	Noted	
261	Noted	
262	Noted	There is equal treatment of citizens in terms of the services enjoyed by sons and daughters born to an Omani woman and a foreign husband.
263	Noted	
264	Noted	There is equal treatment of citizens in terms of the services enjoyed by sons and daughters born to an Omani woman and a foreign husband.