





#### Government of Pakistan Ministry of Human Rights

# PAKISTAN'S INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

## TRAINING PACKAGE

# MODULE 4

Introduction to the UN Human Rights
Council and the Universal Periodic Review

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION TO THE MODULE

#### About:

This Training Module provides sequentially presented instructional units designed to support participants' absorption of substantive and procedural information on the United Nations Human Rights Council and the Universal Periodic Review. The module provides information, concepts and reference to the Pakistani context that enables target trainees and instructors to emerge from the training with not just information but a keen appreciation for its application within both Pakistan and the international human rights system.

#### **Scope and usage:**

The training module has been designed to facilitate participant-trainees during training workshops conducted by the EU-funded Promotion of Human Rights in Pakistan Program (Huqooq-e-Pakistan). A digital copy of the training module will also be provided to the training participants. The training module covers each topic area extensively, enabling participant-trainees to go beyond the training sessions, and educate themselves about the topic areas extensively. Each section of the training module is followed by a small exercise so that learners can test their own knowledge retention. The modules have been specifically tailored with respect to the Pakistani context. Extensive referencing and pointers for additional reading ensure that the training modules can serve as definitive reference materials on the topic areas that they cover.

#### **Beneficiaries:**

The primary beneficiaries of the training modules are the participant trainees of the H-e-P Training & Capacity Development Program, which include officials from the Federal Ministry of Human Rights, Provincial Human Rights Departments and Treaty Implementation Cells. These modules can also be used by National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), UN Agencies, donor-funded technical assistance initiatives and educational institutions in Pakistan to deliver trainings on the subject-area as and when required. Any individual, whether or not s(he) has a role to play in the reporting process, can benefit from these training modules as they are standalone documents which are designed to be self-explanatory for individual learning.

#### 2. INTRODUCTION TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

#### 2.1. <u>History</u>

The Human Rights Council (HRC) is one of the principal human rights institutions, along with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the bodies that monitor implementation of human rights treaties. All these entities have their headquarters in Geneva. Formed in 2006, the HRC replaced the Commission on Human Rights. Following the observation of the then secretary-general of the United Nations (SG) in his report "In Larger Freedom", according to which "the Commission's capacity to perform its tasks has been increasingly undermined by its declining credibility and professionalism". The states subsequently followed the SG's recommendation to "replace the Commission on Human Rights with a smaller standing Human Rights Council ". Switzerland was one of the states which strongly espoused the setting up of the HRC.1

The HRC was officially created by resolution 60/251 of the United Nations General Assembly (GA) on 15 March 2006 as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly (GA) to replace the defunct Commission on Human Rights of 1946 (cf. A/ RES/60/251). The GA then gave the HRC one year in which to review the mechanisms and mandates of the former Commission and to develop the modalities of its new methods of work.<sup>2</sup>

On 18 June 2007, the Human Rights Council adopted key resolution 5/1, entitled Institution-building of the United Nations Human Rights Council (A/HRC/RES/5/1; Institution-building package; IB package), which provides the framework for the functioning of the institution and its subsidiary bodies, and includes the Council's agenda, programme of work and rules of procedure. Above all, it enabled the modalities for a new mechanism known as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to be defined. It can therefore be considered in some respects as the HRC's 'constitutional charter'. In the same context, the Council also adopted resolution 5/2 (A/HRC/ RES/5/2), which contains a code of conduct for the special procedures mandate-holders.<sup>3</sup>

#### 2.2. Mandate and Specific Characteristics

The HRC is the principal inter-governmental forum within the United Nations for questions relating to human rights. Its resolutions and decisions are not legally binding but do contain strong political commitments. The HRC's function is to ensure the effective implementation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> International Human Rights: The Successor to International Human Rights in Context: Text and Materials Philip Alston-Ryan Goodman-Henry Steiner - Oxford University Press – 2013

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Refer to Res/62/219 for further information

of human rights as guaranteed by international law, and in particular by the various instruments of the United Nations.

#### Specifically, the HRC:

- addresses situations of violations of human rights around the world and in relation to specific countries or thematic issues (e.g. discrimination against women), adopts a position and makes recommendations.
- establishes international 'standards' in the field of human rights (e.g. guidelines on human rights and private enterprises).
- develops instruments which are legally binding (e.g. protocol providing for a complaints procedure for the Convention on the Rights of the Child).
- promotes human rights through dialogue, by reinforcing capacity-building and by providing technical assistance.

Having a semi-permanent status as a UN body and a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, the HRC differs from the human rights treaty bodies in several ways:

- it is universal in the sense that it monitors respect for human rights by all members of the United Nations and does not merely restrict itself to those states which are party to human rights treaties.
- it is general in the sense that it protects all human rights, unlike the treaty bodies, which specialise in certain rights; it is composed of government representatives and not independent experts; and
- it is a fully fledged United Nations body.

#### 2.3. Composition

The HRC consists of 47 member states, which are elected by the absolute majority of UN member states. Seats are allocated in accordance with a geographical distribution (corresponding to the UN regional groups): 13 seats for the African states, 13 for the Asia-Pacific states, eight for the Latin American and Caribbean states (GRULAC), seven for the Western European and other states (WEOG) and six for the Eastern European states (for more information on the regional groups and policies of the UN.<sup>4</sup>

HRC members are elected by secret ballot by the members of the GA for a three-year term of office. After two consecutive terms, they are no longer eligible for immediate re-election (e.g. Russia and China left the HRC in 2013 for one year after serving two consecutive periods in office). One-third of its members are renewed each year by the GA. The first election was held in 2006 and the duration of each member's initial term of office was determined by drawing lots. Switzerland was elected in 2006 for three years and re-elected for the 2010-2013 period. It is a candidate for membership for 2016-2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> "What Is the UPR ? - UPR Process What Is It - UPR Steps - English." UPR Info, n.d. <a href="https://www.upr-info.org/en/upr-process/what-is-it">https://www.upr-info.org/en/upr-process/what-is-it</a>.

During these elections, states are generally required to take into account the candidates' contributions to enhancing the promotion and protection of human rights as well as any voluntary commitments they may have entered into in this respect (see Art. 8 of resolution A/RES/60/251). Nevertheless, countries which are known to have a poor human rights record have still been elected to the HRC, although this is less the case than at the time of the Commission.

The GA may, by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, suspend a member of the Council if it has committed gross and systematic violations of human rights. This has only happened on one occasion to date when Libya was suspended from 1 March to 19 November 2011 by consensus. In theory, HRC members are subject to permanent monitoring by other UN members although, in reality, the political imbalances within the HRC prevents such control from being exercised systematically and in an impartial and coherent manner.

Procedural and organisational matters are handled by the Bureau<sup>5</sup>. During the Council's deliberations, however, the role of the Bureau is primarily restricted to that of facilitator as the member states are the principal actors. The Bureau consists of a president and four vice-presidents, each of whom represents one of the five UN regional groups. The presidency rotates each year between the five regional groups. This system ensures that the office of president is held once every five years by a member of a given geographical group. Bureau members are elected at the end of the year for the following annual cycle and serve for one year.

It is worth remembering the important role that civil society plays in the architecture of the HRC. It has numerous representatives participating in the activities of the HRC and its bodies, both on a formal (NGOs with ECOSOC status are entitled to voice their opinions within the framework of the HRC) and an informal basis (transmitting information on special procedures, drawing the attention of the state representatives to particular situations or issues, submitting proposals in the context of negotiating resolutions).

Table 1: Official Documents that determine how the HRC functions

GA, Resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 A/RES/60/251, Human Rights Council

**HRC, Resolution 5/1 (IB package) of 18 June 2007** A/HRC/RES/5/1, Institution-building of the United Nations Human Rights Council

**HRC, Resolution 5/2 of 18 June 2007** A/HRC/RES/5/2, Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The Bureau of the Council consists of five people - one President and four Vice-presidents - representing the five regional groups. They serve for a year, in accordance with the Council's annual cycle.

**HRC, Decision 6/102 of 27 September 2007** A/HRC/DEC/6/102, Follow-up to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1. This decision comprises guidelines for the preparation of information under the UPR, requirements for eligible candidates for special procedures mandate-holders and considerations regarding the Advisory Committee

**HRC, President's Statement 8/1 of 9 April 2008** A/HRC/PRST/8/1, Modalities and practices for the Universal Periodic Review process

**HRC, President's Statement 8/2 of 18 June 2008** A/HRC/PRST/8/2, Terms of office of special procedures mandate-holders

**HRC, President's Statement 9/2 of 14 September 2008** A/HRC/PRST/9/2, Follow-up to President's statement 8/1

**HRC, Resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011** A/HRC/RES/16/21, Review of the work and functioning of the Human Rights Council

**GA, Resolution 65/281 of 17 June 2011** A/HRC/RES/65/281, Review of the Human Rights Council

**HRC, Decision 17/119 of 17 June 2011** A/HRC/DEC/17/119, Follow-up to the Human Rights Council resolution 16/21 with regard to the UPR.

#### 2.4. Test Your knowledge



- 1) The UN Human Rights Council replaced the
  - a) United Nations
  - b) Commission on Human Rights
  - c) General Assembly
  - d) The Rome Statue
- 2) The Human Rights Council is a
  - a) Judicial organ of the UN
  - b) Organ of the UN Security Council
  - c) Inter-governmental forum for Human Rights
  - d) UN General Assembly Human Rights Committee
- 3) The mandate of the UN HRC is:
  - a) Ensure violations of international law
  - b) Ensure the enforcement of the Rome Statute
  - c) Ensure effective implementation of human rights
  - d) None of the above
- 4) How many members does the HRC consist of?
  - a) 47
  - b) 34
  - c) 65
  - d) 27

#### 3. UNDERSTANDING THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

#### 3.1. Introduction

The UPR is a United Nations review mechanism of the overall human rights situation of all UN Member States, by all UN Member States. Since its inception in 2008, all UN Member States have participated in the UPR. They have all come to Geneva, Switzerland, and answered questions on their human rights record. Almost all States have accepted recommendations from other UN Member States (some States have not clearly stated whether they accepted the recommendations made to them). A State may not officially reject recommendations. It must indicate whether each recommendation enjoys the State's support and is therefore accepted or whether it is noted but not accepted.<sup>6</sup>

The UPR examination takes place during a  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hour 'review' conducted by the UPR Working Group – which is open to any UN Member State – in the form of an interactive dialogue. The State under review is given 70 minutes to present its report, answer questions made by other States and present concluding remarks. 140 minutes are allocated to States participating in the review to ask questions, make comments and recommendations to the State under review. They can also transmit written questions to the State under review ten working days before its UPR.

For each review, three HRC Member States, known as the **troika**<sup>7</sup>, are selected at random. They transmit the written questions to the State under review and help the Secretariat draft the Report of the Working Group. The table below covers the salient features of the UPR process:

Table 2: Basic Aspects of UPR – FAQ sheet

What is the UPR?	The UPR reviews the fulfilment by all 192 UN member States (or countries) on their human rights obligations and commitments, as well as their progress, challenges, and needs for improvement.  Countries are reviewed every four years The UPR was created in response to criticism that previous UN mechanisms focused too much on certain regions. The UPR is designed to be applied more universally and uniformly.
How does the UPR work?	Unlike the review process of the treaty bodies such as the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), which is conducted by independent experts, the UPR is a peer review – based on the model used by the African Union.

<sup>6</sup> Ihid

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The Troika is the name given to the three rapporteurs that are assigned to facilitate the review process. Troika members are selected randomly and represent countries that are part of the Human Rights Council; however they are also regionally balanced. Countries under review have the right to veto one of the troika members, and to request that one member of the troika is from its region. A country can be excused from participating as a troika member for a specific review.

	This is an innovative and cooperative mechanism based on an interactive dialogue between the country that is reviewed and any other UN country. During this interactive dialogue, the country under review presents its report, answers questions, and receives recommendations from other countries. The interactive dialogue is followed by the informal adoption of an —outcome document that includes all the recommendations made to the country under review. The outcome document is officially adopted at the next Human Rights Council regular session.			
What is the UPR Working Group?	The UPR Working Group hosts the sessions of the UPR and is essentially the same body as the Human Rights Council. It consists of all 47 countries of the Human Rights Council and is chaired by the President of the Human Rights Council. The UPR Working Group generally meets three times a year from February to March, April to May, and November to December. Each session meets for approximately ten days. Around 16 UN countries are reviewed during each session, and 48 are reviewed per year. The UPR Working Group met for the first time in April 2008.			
What are the Goals of UPR?	<ul> <li>The main goals of UPR are: <ol> <li>Addressing inequalities and all forms of discrimination.</li> <li>Advancing the human rights situation for all.</li> <li>Pushing governments to fulfil their human rights obligations and commitments.</li> <li>Reviewing positive developments and challenges faced by countries.</li> </ol> </li> <li>V. Sharing best practices between the countries and stakeholders.</li> </ul>			
What is the UPR Cycle?	Based on a four-year cycle (infographic provided below), the UPR mechanism allows the Human Rights Council to review all the 192 countries that belong to the UN. There are five steps to the UPR:  i. Preparation of the documents  ii. Interactive dialogue between the country under review and UN countries  iii. Development of outcome document by the UPR Working Group  iv. Adoption of the outcome document by the Human Rights Council  v. Follow-up to conclusions and recommendations adopted from the review			
What is the universality of UPR?	<ul> <li>i. Countries are selected randomly (by lot) for the review.</li> <li>ii. All countries that are part of the UN will be reviewed.</li> <li>iii. The initial members of the Human Rights Council, especially those elected for one or two terms, will be reviewed first.</li> <li>iv. Countries that are part of the Human Rights Council, as well as observer countries will be also reviewed.</li> <li>v. A fair geographic distribution is considered in the selection of countries for review.</li> </ul>			

**UPR TIMELINE** COMMENCEMENT OF THIRD UPR CYCLE **CONCLUSION OF** 2016 SECOND UPR CYCLE November COMMENCEMENT OF SECOND UPR CYCLE 2011 **CONCLUSION OF FIRST UPR CYCLE** October 0 2008 FIRST UPR WORKING 7-18 April **GROUP SESSION UPR TRUST FUND** 2007 **ESTABLISHMENT** by UN Human Rights Council Resolution 6/17 28 September 2007 **UPR** 18 June INSTITUTION-BUILDING by UN Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 UPR **ESTABLISHMENT** 2006 by UN General Assembly resolution 60/251 15 March

Fig. 2: Timeline of the UPR

3.2. <u>Relationship between UPR recommendations and treaty body concluding observations</u>

The UPR is not a stand-alone mechanism of the UN. It is based on the work of the treaty bodies and special procedures and can therefore be used to follow up their concluding observations or recommendations. The UPR can also produce additional recommendations which reflect developments at national level since the State was last examined by treaty bodies. These recommendations can be followed up by these treaty bodies.

Unlike the concluding observations of treaty bodies, when a State has formally accepted UPR recommendations, it has committed to implement them before its next review. When the State has not clearly indicated whether it has accepted or simply noted UPR recommendations, it will nonetheless have to report on the measures it has undertaken since the last review.

#### 3.3. Overview of the Review process:

During the UPR process, each country is reviewed on the basis of the following human rights agreements:

- The Charter of the United Nations (UN Charter)
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
- The human rights instruments to which the country is a party (treaties or conventions)
- The country's voluntary pledges and commitments, including those undertaken when presenting its candidature for election to the Human Rights Council
- Applicable international humanitarian law

The table below shall provide an overview of the process:

Table, 3: Overview of the UPR Process

Before the Review	<ul> <li>Submission of documentation including the country's reportant</li> <li>compilation of the UN information, and the summary of stakeholders' submissions</li> </ul>	
At the Review	<ul> <li>3-hour interactive dialogue between the country under review and other UN countries</li> <li>Informal adoption of the outcome document in the UPR Working Group that includes a list of recommendations made during the review</li> </ul>	
After the Review	<ul> <li>Official adoption of the outcome document by the Human Rights Council</li> <li>Follow-up and implementation of recommendations</li> </ul>	

/ MID-TERM NATIONAL PROCESS OF FOLLOW-UP & REPORT **IMPLEMENTATION UPR REVIEW PROCESS HUMAN RIGHTS** COUNCIL PREPARATION OF PRE-SESSION DOCUMENTS **ADOPTION** & REPORT ADDENDUM UPR WORKING GROUP REVIEW & REPORT

Table. 4: The Universal Periodic Review Process

#### 3.4. Test your knowledge



1	) What	is the	Universal	Periodio	Review?
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- a) A review of a State's trade commitments
- b) Review of a State's human rights commitments
- c) A review of a State's human rights violations
- d) A review of the State's institutional structure
- 2) How many cycles of UPR are there?
  - a) 1
  - b) 5
  - c) 3
  - d) 4
- 3) UPR is based on the work of the treaty bodies and special procedures and can therefore be used to follow up their concluding observations or recommendations
  - a) True
  - b) False
- 4) List the goals of UPR
- 5) When a State has formally accepted UPR recommendations, there is no commitment to implement them before its next review
  - a) True
  - b) False

#### 4. ROLE OF NGO'S IN THE UPR PROCESS

There are many ways to engage the UPR process which would be useful for advocacy groups. Although the review process provides limited space for NGO participation, the work before and after the review is key to implementing concrete recommendations of the outcome document.<sup>8</sup>

<u>Listed below are some ways that NGOs can participate in the UPR process</u>:

- 1. Engage in consultations with the government
- 2. Submit a stakeholder report
- 3. Lobby countries
- 4. Attend the UPR Working Group session
- 5. Attend and participate in the Human Rights Council session
- 6. Follow-up and push for implementation of recommendations

#### 4.1. Engaging in consultations with the government

The OHCHR strongly encourages countries to consult with civil society in the preparation of the country's national report. In Pakistan, the Ministry of Human Rights and Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for the preparation of this report. Therefore, NGOs should insist on substantive, inclusive, and ongoing consultation. This will help NGOs inform what topics the government's report will address, identify the strengths and weaknesses of their coverage, and prepare to fill the gaps in the national report with additional information.

#### 4.2. Submitting a Stakeholder Report

Similar to the treaty system, NGOs can also submit a report on human rights issues and their country's compliance with human rights obligations. For the UPR, stakeholders' reports are considered for inclusion in the summary of reports prepared by the OHCHR. NGOs do not have to be accredited to submit a report.

According to the technical guidelines for the submissions of stakeholders' information to the OHCHR, reports should include:

- 1. An introductory paragraph: Written submissions should include an introductory executive summary, capturing the main points contained in the report
- 2. Information on the NGO: The report should also provide a short paragraph on the objectives and work of the NGO/coalition that is submitting the report.
- 3. Language: The OHCHR prefers that reports be written in English, French or Spanish, or any other official UN language.
- 4. Page Limit: Reports should be short, and they must not exceed 5 pages if submitted by an individual organization or 10 pages if submitted by a coalition of groups.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> "Role of CSOs - English." UPR Info, n.d. <a href="https://www.upr-info.org/en/How-to/Role-NGOs">https://www.upr-info.org/en/How-to/Role-NGOs</a>.

Annexes and supporting information may be attached only for reference. There is no limit to the size of annexes; however, they should not include pictures, maps, organizations' annual reports or reports from other organizations. It is preferred that reports not include an extensive number of footnotes.

- 5. Format: Reports should be saved as a Word document only, i.e. not as PDF file, in Times New Roman, font size 12. Paragraphs and pages of each submission should be numbered.
- 6. Time Period: The UPR is scheduled to occur every four years for each country. All actors submitting information to be reviewed (countries, OHCHR, NGOs) should limit the scope of their submissions to four years.
- 7. Deadline: Information on report deadlines can be found at: <a href="http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/NewDeadlines.aspx">http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/NewDeadlines.aspx</a>
  In general, NGO reports must be submitted around seven months before the review

NGOs submissions will be summarized by the OHCHR in a 10-page document. It is important for NGOs to study the outline (provided in the table below) to think about where the issues and recommendations highlighted in their reports might fit it. Some of the sections may vary depending on the human rights situation in the country under review. The OHCHR can omit some of the sections or include new ones.

Table. 5: Outline of the OHCHR Summary of NGO Submissions

- I. Background and Framework
  - A. Scope of international obligations
  - B. Constitutional and legislative framework
  - C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure
  - D. Policy measures
- II. Promotion and Protection of human rights on the ground
  - A. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms
    - 1. Cooperation with treaty bodies
    - 2. Cooperation with special procedures
    - 3. Cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights
  - B. Implementation of international human rights obligations
    - 1. Equality and non-discrimination
    - 2. Right to life, liberty, and security of the person
    - 3.. Administration of justice and the rule of law
    - 4. Freedom of religion or belief, association, and peaceful assembly and the right to participate in public and political life
    - 5. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work
    - 6. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living
    - 7. Right to education and to participate in the cultural life of the community
    - 8. Minorities and indigenous peoples
    - 9. Migrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers
    - 10. Human rights and counterterrorism
- III. Achievements, best practices, challenges, and constraints

- IV. Key national priorities, initiatives, and commitments
  - A. Pledges by the State
  - B. Specific recommendations for follow-up
- V. Capacity-building and technical assistance

Once the NGO submission is received, the OHCHR will check if it complies with its technical guidelines. If it does, it will be uploaded on the OHCHR's UPR web page. The OHCHR then selects information from all the submissions it has received from NGOs and other stakeholders to create its summary of stakeholders' information.

UN Member States may support some of the issues or recommendations raised in the compilation and incorporate them into their own statements. This is a great opportunity for NGO engagement: through advocacy and lobby activities, NGOs can convince States to make some, if not all, of their recommendations during the review. Advocacy and lobbying will also ensure that States understand the full spectrum of human rights issues in the country and not only the most obvious ones. All the recommendations made by States during the review, whether they are later accepted or simply noted, will appear in the Report of the Working Group (also known as the outcome report of the UPR), which summarizes the interactive dialogue with the State under review. Recommendations appearing in NGO submissions could therefore be directly included in the outcome report and have a chance of being accepted by the State.<sup>9</sup>

#### 4.3. Lobbying other countries

Because NGOs may attend but not speak at the review session itself, lobbying countries about important human rights issues is the only way to make sure recommendations will be raised during the review. NGOs should identify countries that might be sympathetic to their issues and schedule meetings with representatives from embassies, consulates, and missions in the home country and/or Geneva.

#### 4.4. Attend the UPR Working Group session - Interactive Dialogue

One way to ensure that NGO voices are heard during the review is holding a side event in which human rights issues that concern the country under review are highlighted. The side event should serve as an informative session to countries that are sympathetic to human rights. NGOs with ECOSOC status and that have been accredited may attend sessions of the UPR Working Group, but they cannot make any oral statements at the session meetings. Further, NGOs should push for a meeting with delegates of the country under review both before the interactive dialogue session, as well as in the 48 hours afterwards, to try and influence the government's decision on accepting or rejecting key recommendations.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> "A Practical Guide for NGO Participants," n.d. <a href="https://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/HRC-Practical Guide NGOs may2010.pdf">https://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/HRC-Practical Guide NGOs may2010.pdf</a>.

#### 4.5. Participating in the Human Rights Council

The plenary session of the Human Rights Council – which takes place three to four months after the review – allows NGOs to make oral or written statements, and to make comments or ask questions to the country under review before the adoption of the outcome document. Only accredited organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC may attend the session.

Twenty minutes of the session are allocated for oral statements from NGOs. Each speaker has 2 minutes to make its comment. It is important that organizations prepare joint statements during the session as coalition statements will be prioritized. NGOs should be prepared to attend the session early in order to be one of the first names on the list of speakers. NGOs can also submit written statements; however, they will have less impact than oral ones.

#### 4.6. Follow-up work to ensure implementation of outcome document

Countries are responsible for implementing the conclusions, recommendations, voluntary pledges and commitments that are part of the outcome documents. However, NGOs play a key role during the implementation of the outcome document and should have a clear advocacy plan to do so. This can be done through:

- 1. Organize a press conference. Publicize the results of the outcome document that has been approved by the country under review, which means it has accepted recommendations and made voluntary commitments for improvement. Also highlight recommendations that were rejected and/or put on hold.
- 2. Use the media. There are many media tools like the use of Facebook, Twitter, blogs and other avenues that can be used to spread the word, educate the public, and put pressure on the government to fulfil its UPR obligations. Each subsequent review will be based largely on implementation efforts and improvement in key areas identified in the previous review.
- 3. Organize meetings. Discuss the relevance of the outcome document with your community, and how community members can engage in the implementation process
- 4. Develop a strategy to monitor implementation. Organizations should monitor government progress as well as problems or limitations during the 4 years between reviews.
- 5. Participate in implementation. NGOs should engage in dialogue with the government to share expertise in the human rights field of concern, and to make the process and methods of implementation as effective and targeted as possible
- 6. Organize a web casting. Organizations in other countries have successfully organized events to inform civil society on the results of the review. Groups can host a webcasting event showing the interactive dialogue for their communities. Depending on the time, people may be able to watch live webcast of reviews

#### 4.7. <u>Test your Knowledge</u>



- 1) List the ways NGOs can participate in the UPR Process?
- 2) UPR Reports are prepared in coordination with:
  - a) Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Ministry of Human Rights
  - b) Ministry of Commerce & Ministry of Defense
  - c) Attorney General
  - d) National Commission of Human Rights
- 3) NGOs can also submit a report on human rights issues and their country's compliance with human rights obligations.
  - a) True
  - b) False
- 4) How much time is allocated to NGO's to make oral statements during the UPR?
  - a) 10 minutes
  - b) 30 minutes
  - c) 1 hour
  - d) 20 minutes
- 5) Any NGO can engage in the UPR process
  - a) True
  - b) False

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