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UPR ADVOCACY STRATEGIES

Universal Periodic Review (UPR) - Process

- **Presentation by the SuR** : of its National Report & of its responses to the advance questions submitted by States in writing 10 days before the review.
- **Interactive dialogue** : takes place during which States take the floor to ask questions and make **recommendations** on the HR situation in the country. During this dialogue, the SuR takes the floor regularly to answer those questions & comment on those recommendations.
- At the end, the SuR presents its **concluding remarks**.
- The SuR's overall speaking time throughout the review is **70 minutes**. Other States have a total of 140 minutes.

Troika

- It consists of 3 countries' delegates assisting the review.

Composition of the troika

- Members are selected by the drawing of lots among members of the HRC & from different regional groups.
- They can be delegation members or experts nominated by the selected State. Each SuR has a different troika & can request that one of the 3 members be from its Regional Group & /or that one of the troika members be substituted, although only on one occasion. Finally, a troika member may ask to be excluded from participation in a specific review.
- ***Before the review*** The troika receives the written questions & /or issues raised by States & relays them to the SuR.
- ***During the interactive dialogue*** : Troika members do not have a specific role during the interactive dialogue. They can take the floor as any delegation & make questions & recommendations.
- ***Preparing the report of the Working Group*** : The troika prepares the report of the Working Group, which contains a full account of the proceedings, with the involvement of the SuR & with the assistance of the Secretariat.
- **Finally**, one of the troika members is in charge of introducing the report before its adoption at the Working Group.

Pre- UPR (Domestic Activities and Advocacy)

National Consultation - To write its National Report to be submitted to the HRC for the review, the **SuR** is “encouraged” to hold a “broad consultation process at the national level with all relevant stakeholders” at least a year before the review in different cities & regions of the country & include a broad range of civil society organisations and NHRIs.

NGOs can seize this opportunity to run a national campaign to promote the UPR & bring it to the attention of the general public & the media.

Pre- UPR (Domestic Activities and Advocacy)

■ Regional/State level consultation

1. consolidate the findings from the regional consultations,
2. establish national patterns of human rights violations,
3. prioritize the most pressing human rights issues, and
4. continue a constructive engagement and dialogue between civil society and NHRIs around the UPR process.
5. Exchange of dialogues

One on One Meetings

Embassies, domestic stakeholders (HRCs and HRIs), international CSOs

Pre-UPR (Domestic Activities and Advocacy)

- Submission of Information
- The review is based on 3 reports:
 - A National Report , a compilation prepared by the OHCHR and a summary of 10 pages prepared by the OHCHR containing information from the civil society.
- Any civil society actors, national institution, NGOs, human rights defenders, local associations, grass root organisations, trade unions, indigenous peoples, can submit information to the OHCHR, with or without the **ECOSOC status**.
- An individual submission by an NGO is limited to **2815 words**, excluding foot notes and annexes.

Pre-UPR (Domestic Activities and Advocacy)

- A **joint submission** submitted by a coalition of NGOs (2 NGOs or more) can be **5630 words**.
- An NGO can submit only one **individual submission** but can be part of as many joint submissions.
- Submissions have to be to the OHCHR through their new **online** system. When the submission is finalised, one has to login to the online system and upload the document. The new submission should then be listed in the system.
- The deadline for the submission of information is about **6 to 8 months** before the session. Late submissions are not considered.
- The National Report, the compilation and the summary as well as NGO submissions are usually available on the OHCHR website **6 weeks** before the start of the UPR working group

National report: prepared by the SuR; consultation process with stakeholders; 10,700 words - 20 pages; in one of the 6 official languages of the UN.

UN Compilation: prepared by OHCHR; information from TB, SP and other U.N. documents; 5,350 word - 10 pages.

Summary of stakeholders' submissions: prepared by OHCHR; information from NGOs, NHRIs and regional organizations; 5,350 words - 10 pages

Pre- UPR (Domestic Activities and Advocacy)

- Lobby States:
- NGOs can lobby States in order to bring to their attention **specific issues** & to obtain that such issues be addressed during the interactive dialogue in the form of **questions** & /or **recommendations** or through advance questions.
- Due to the high number of NGO submissions, not all the listed issues are brought to the attention of members of the Working Group nor included in OHCHR summaries. Therefore, lobbying is a crucial part of the process to make sure that issues of interest are raised during the interactive dialogue.

Pre-UPR (International activities and Advocacy)

- In Geneva: strongly advised to come at least **one month before** review as drafting a statement takes time & consultations b'w the capital, the embassy in the country under review & Geneva.
- To facilitate NGOs' lobbying, UPR Info organises "**Pre-sessions**" in Geneva between NGOs & States, 2 months before the review & brings together Permanent Missions, NHRIs & CSOs to discuss the HR situation of States.
- The *Pre-sessions* offer permanent delegations the opportunity to be informed on the status of implementation of recommendations made during the previous review & space for civil society to influence the process by lobbying several delegations at once.
- When meeting with delegates, it is important to concentrate on priority issues & present for each about 4 or 5 **specific questions & action oriented recommendations** in one or two pages.

During the UPR Session

- Attend the review
- CSOs are not allowed to take the floor during the review but they can be present in the room.
- Hold a side event
- As during the HRC, NGOs have the possibility to hold side events during the session of the Working Group. However, side events the day before the review should not be organised for lobbying as it will have limited impact on delegations' statement. Lobbying in Geneva should be made 1-2 months before the review. Special Rapporteurs can be invited.

During the UPR Session

- Organise a screening of the webcast in the country:
- Each review is "**webcasted**", which means filmed by the UN & accessible live & in archive on the UN website. NGOs can organise in a cinema or in a conference room the screening of the review & invite the civil society, the media, the parliamentarians, the opposition, the UN agencies, etc.
- Hold a press conference/statements
- Right after the review, NGOs can hold press conference &/or issue press statements to share their assessment of the review.

During the UPR Session

- *Make an oral statement*
- During the adoption of the report of the Working Group at the HRC plenary session, 20 minutes are allocated to NGOs to make a statement. In total, 10 NGOs are given 2 minutes each.
- To speak, NGOs need to register online at 2 PM Geneva time the Friday before the beginning of the HRC session & to confirm in person at the List of Speakers' Desk in Room XX the day before speaking. The 10 slots which will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis.

During the UPR Session

- NGOs can also deliver their statement by **video** instead of travelling to Geneva. This option is for organizations involved in the national process or having sent contributions for the summary of stakeholder information prepared by the OHCHR. The conditions to participate via video is to not have an office or representative in Geneva & not have individuals accredited to the relevant session of the HRC. NGOs need to indicate in the online form that they wish to participate via video. There are guidelines for video statements.

- Submit a written statement

As during any Human Rights Council plenary, NGOs can submit written statements under any item, including the sixth one which is the UPR. However, written statements have less impact than oral ones.

- Number of recommendations accepted
 - Pattern of accepting/rejecting recommendations
 - Thematic areas covered or rejected by accepted recommendations
 - Government's consultative processes
 - Critical issues that demand urgent attention
 - Positive developments on certain human rights issues
- Press Release

Post - UPR

- States have to **implement** the recommendations they have accepted and the voluntary pledges they have taken. At the next UPR, they will be reviewed on their implementation of recommendations & pledges & on the HR situation in the country since the previous review.
- NGOs have a great role to play between two reviews. They can:
 - Make the recommendations and pledges **public**;
 - Monitor** their implementation;
 - Engage in **dialogue** with the State reviewed to participate in their implementation;
 - Report to the **HRC** on the progress by making a statement at any item 6's General debate.

Post - UPR

- The importance of the **mid-term reports** to the UPR process was again highlighted by many countries. Austria, Belgium & Sudan underscored the importance of such reports by announcing their submissions of stated mid-term reports. The latter explained that 75% of their accepted recommendations have been implemented. The Republic of Moldova announced its intention to submit a midterm report in 2014 & Solomon Islands provided updates on the implementation of the recommendations received during its first UPR & notably the submission of three periodic reports to treaty bodies.











More Solutions

- UPR Recommendations could be combined with Treaty Body and Special Procedures in a joint follow-up database.
- Treaty Body experts and Special Procedures should be responsible for addressing rejected Recommendations.
- Persistent communication on compilation of reports/data/case studies with the country desk officers at OHCHR and assistants of SRs
- Human rights issues could be grouped into regional focus areas, thus ensuring better coordination between country authorities.
- UPR Recommendations could be included in existing human rights action plans.

Important Points

- Deadlines for stakeholders' submissions will be posted on the OHCHR UPR webpage (at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/NgosNhris.aspx>), indicatively **ten to eight months** before the review.
- Stakeholders should note that written submissions to OHCHR should be sent indicatively at least **five months** before the relevant session of the Working Group on UPR.
- Recommendations: 1st cycle – 30 (Accepted - 5, not accepted - 25), 2nd Cycle – 170 (Accepted - 56 , not accepted - 114)
- For UPR India 3rd Cycle: NGO submission deadline is **1 July 2016**, UPR Session is in January 2017

<p>India </p> <p>Asia Commonwealth</p>	<p>Strengthen legislations to combat sexual offences against minors</p>	<p>Algeria </p> <p>Africa AU, OIC, AL</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights of the Child
<p>India </p> <p>Asia Commonwealth</p>	<p>Continue its efforts to further spread in the country the model of rural growth in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act</p>	<p>Greece </p> <p>WEOG EU, OIF</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development
<p>India </p> <p>Asia Commonwealth</p>	<p>Enhance the coordination of both the central and state governments in an effective manner in order to guarantee the smooth implementation of the 2010 Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act</p>	<p>Indonesia </p> <p>Asia ASEAN, OIC</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to education • Rights of the Child
<p>India </p> <p>Asia Commonwealth</p>	<p>Continue with action to include human rights education in the school curricula</p>	<p>Sri Lanka </p> <p>Asia Commonwealth</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human rights education training

<p>India </p> <p>Asia Commonwealth</p>	<p>Further coordination among relevant national authorities and human rights institutions</p>	<p>Egypt </p> <p>Africa AU, OIC, AL, OIF</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Human Institution
<p>India </p> <p>Asia Commonwealth</p>	<p>Intensify efforts in providing capacity building and training programmes on human rights for its law enforcement officials as well as judicial and legal officials in the rural areas</p>	<p>Malaysia </p> <p>Asia ASEAN, OIC, Commonwealth</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human rights education training
<p>India </p> <p>Asia Commonwealth</p>	<p>Continue including civil society participation in the UPR process</p>	<p>Nicaragua </p> <p>GRULAC OAS, OEI, ACS</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil society • UPR process
<p>India </p> <p>Asia Commonwealth</p>	<p>A fully integrated gender perspective in the follow up of this UPR</p>	<p>Norway </p> <p>WEOG</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPR process • Women's rights
<p>India </p> <p>Asia Commonwealth</p>	<p>Continue cooperating with Special Procedures and accept in particular requests for visits from Special Rapporteurs</p>	<p>Belgium </p> <p>WEOG EU, OIF</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special procedures

SuR	Recommendation	RS	Response	A	Issue
▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	
India  Asia Commonwealth	Ensure a safe working environment for journalists and take proactive measures to address the issue of impunity, such as swift and independent investigations	Austria  WEOG EU	Noted	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freedom of the press • Impunity

SuR	Recommendation	RS	Response	A	Issue
▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	
India  Asia Commonwealth	Ensure that measures limiting freedom of expression on the internet is based on clearly defined criteria in accordance with international human rights standard	Sweden  WEOG EU	Noted	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freedom of opinion and expression • International instruments