

THE  
CARTER CENTER



# Universal Periodic Review

Introduction to the Universal Periodic Review

# What is the UPR?

- The UPR is the mechanism through which the **Human Rights Council assesses the human rights situation** in each members state.
- **It is a 'peer-review'**: An interactive dialogue between the reviewed country and other UN member states about human rights.
  - The interactive dialogue is **based on information** provided by the state, UN agencies, and civil society and recommendations for the member states.
  - An **'outcome' document** is produced after the dialogue. This document includes recommendations given to the country under review
  - The outcome document is officially adopted during the regular meeting of the **Human Rights Council**

# UPR working group



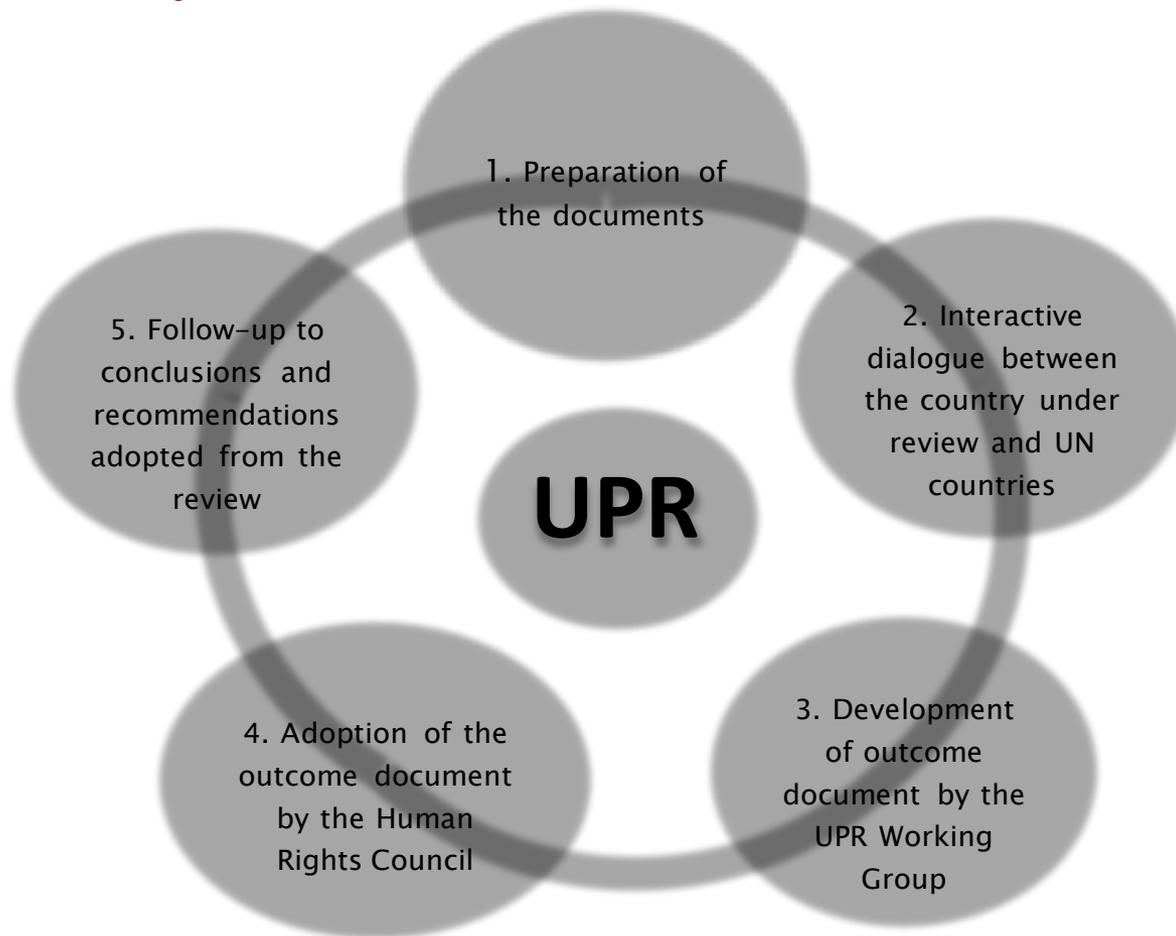
- The UPR working group is composed of the members of the Human Rights Council
- The UPR working group meets three times a year for about 10 days
- 16 UN countries are reviewed each time the UPR working group meets

# Goals of the UPR

- Addressing inequalities and all forms of discrimination
- Advancing the human rights situation for all
- Pushing governments to fulfill their human rights obligations and commitments
- Reviewing positive developments and challenges faced by countries
- Sharing best practices between the countries and stakeholders

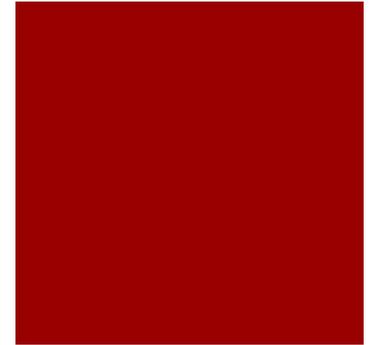
Source: Human Rights Project at the Urban Justice Center (2010). «A Practical Guide to the United Nations' Universal Periodic Review.»

# UPR Cycle



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# How is the UPR different from UN treaty-bodies?



<b>UPR</b>	<b>Treaty-Bodies</b>
Covers all human rights	Theme specific
Composed of other states	Composed of independent member experts