

THE  
CARTER CENTER



# Universal Periodic Review

Overview of the Review Process

# Review Process

- The review process is composed of two stages:
  - Interactive Dialogue
  - Informal adoption of the outcome document
- At each stage, NGOs have a unique role to play



# Interactive Dialogue



- The review lasts a total of three and half hours
- The State's presentation (70 minutes) :
  - 20-40 minutes: Introduction of state report
  - 25-40 minutes: Response to questions and recommendations
  - 5-10 minutes: Final remarks
- UN member states:
  - 140 minutes: Countries can ask questions and make recommendations

# NGO Involvement

- Only NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status can attend the UPR review as observers.
- NGOs can attend the review but they are not allowed to make an oral statement



# NGO Involvement



- NGOs can undertake the following activities:
  - Lobby friendly states to ask questions or to make a recommendation (1 to 2 months before the event)
  - Organize a national viewing of the live broadcast of the UPR session
  - Hold a side event
  - Hold a press conference or release a press statement

# Informal Adoption of the Outcome Document



- Outcome document is drafted (48 hours after the interactive dialogue)
- Outcome document summarizes the list of question and recommendations raised during the review
- Outcome document is prepared by OHCHR and the state under review
- Two days after the UPR the outcome document is presented to the UPR Working Group – and is informally adopted
- Modifications can be made to this report at this point, but not on the recommendations
- Approximately 4 months later the report is formally adopted by the Human Rights Council

# NGO Involvement



- NGOs should lobby their government to make **voluntary commitments** and to accept **particular recommendations** made during the review session:
  - before the informal adoption of the Outcome document
  - Before the formal adoption of the Outcome document