

The United Nations logo, featuring a world map surrounded by olive branches, is centered in the background.

**Universal Periodic Review
(UPR)
the 3rd cycle
2017-2021(2022)**

**Universal Periodic
Review**



Outline / Content

- Basic introduction
- Objectives of the UPR
- The UPR 3rd cycle – a new momentum and opportunities
- Role of Governments
- Importance of the UPR Mid-term Report
- National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF)
- Role of Parliaments and Judiciary
- Role of other national stakeholders – NHRI and NGOs
- Role of regional human rights mechanisms
- National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP)
- Recommendations Implementation Plan (RIP)
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Universal Human Rights Index
- Human Rights Indicators
- UN system support/OHCHR support through field presences
- UPR Voluntary Trust Funds



UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

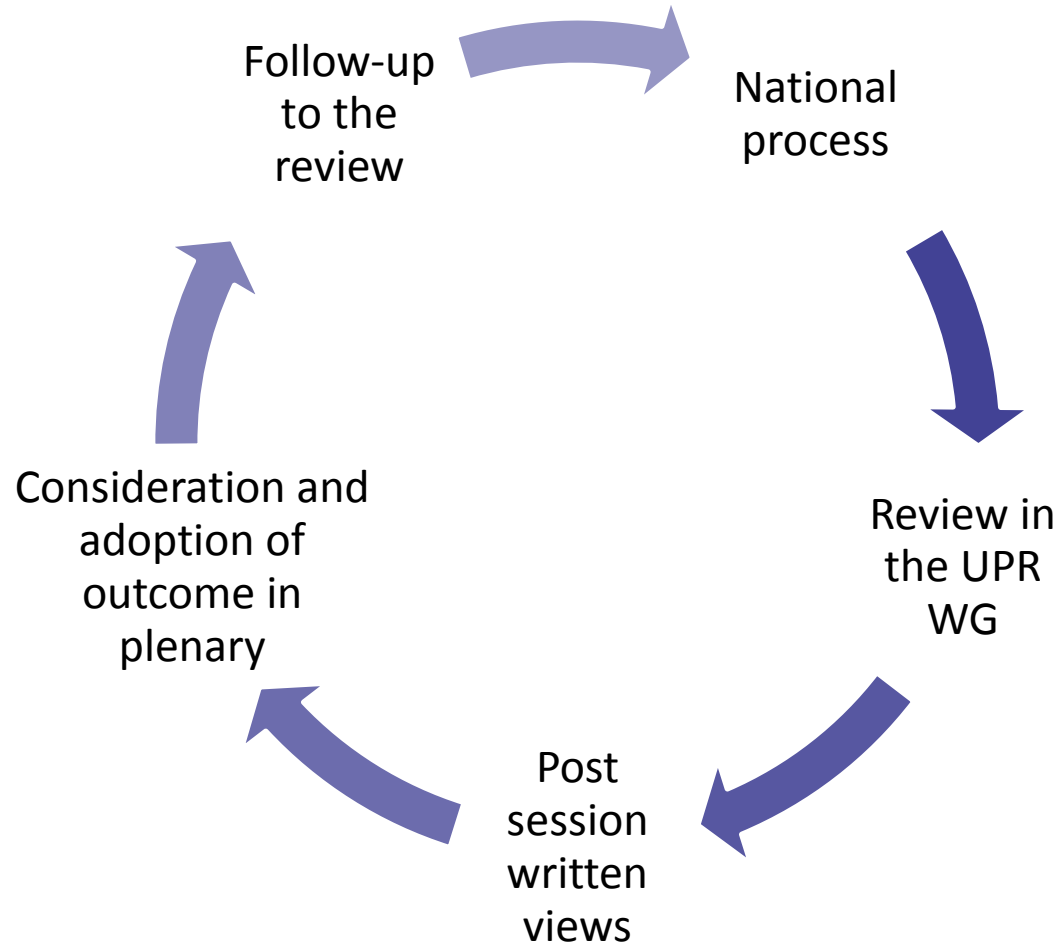
- Created through the GA Resolution 60/251, paragraph 5.e (2006)
- Cooperative mechanism and a State-driven process which reviews the fulfillment of the human rights obligations and commitments of all 193 UN Member States once every four and a half years
- Provides an opportunity for States to demonstrate actions taken to improve the human rights situation. Reminds States of their responsibility to fully respect all human rights and fundamental freedoms
- Aims at improving the human rights situation and supports States to that direction



UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW



UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW: CYCLE OF THE UPR



UPR MODALITIES

(HRC Resolutions 5/1 and 16/21 and HRC Decision 17/119)

A) Interactive dialogue in the WG (the Review)

- Working Group: 47 member States of the HRC
- Member and Observer States participate in the review
- Stakeholders attend the review



UPR MODALITIES

(cnt'd)

- The Troika facilitates the review and the preparation of the WG report, assisted by OHCHR

- 3h^{1/2} for the review in the WG
 - 70 min. for the SuR
 - 140 min. for States

- 30 min. for the adoption of the WG report



Modalities: Post-session Written Views

(HRC PRST/9/2, GA PRST/8/1 and HRC Resolution 16/21)

- The SuR should have taken position on all the recommendations received before the adoption of the outcome in plenary
 - Information to be sent to the HRC
 - In a written format (addendum)
 - Position should be clear

- SuRs have increasingly used this opportunity to communicate their position on pending recommendations, i.e. those recommendations on which the SuR did not take position in the UPR working group



UPR MODALITIES

(HRC Resolutions 5/1 and 16/21 and HRC Decision 17/119)

B) Adoption of the Outcome in the HRC Plenary

- The SuR must state its position on the recommendations
- Stakeholders and NHRIs may participate
- One hour is allocated for the adoption of the Outcome divided between SuR, States and Stakeholders:
 - 20 minutes SuR
 - 2 minutes NHRI of the SuR (A Status)
 - 20 minutes States and UN entities
 - 18 minutes Stakeholders



The Human Rights Council Plenary

Adoption of the Outcome

What constitutes the Report of the HRC Plenary

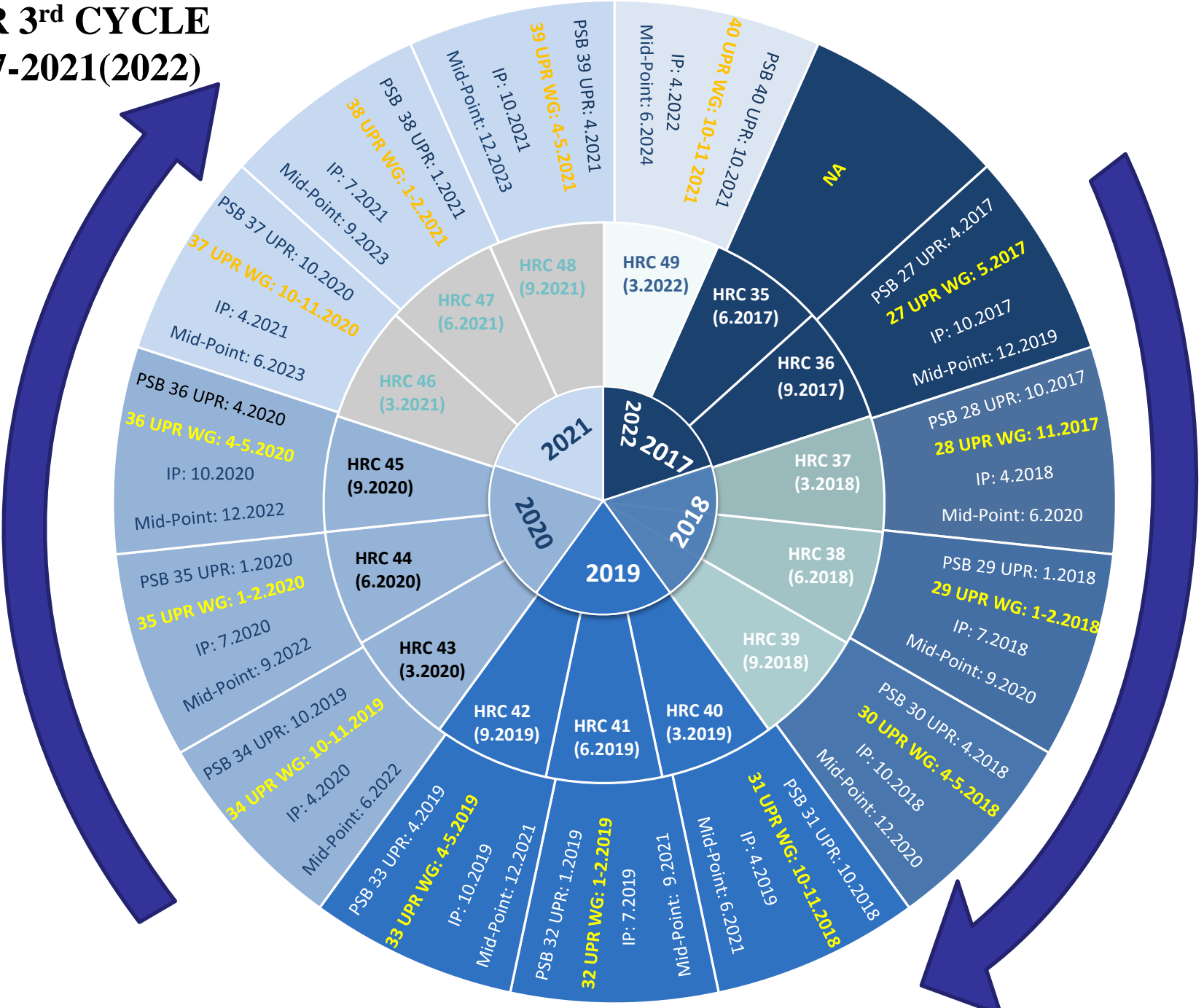
(HRC PRST/9/2)

- Summary of the statement made by the SuR in the plenary, before the adoption of the Outcome, and concluding remarks of the SuR
- Summary of the views expressed on the Outcome by Member and Observer States
- Summary of general comments made by other relevant Stakeholders, including the NHRI and NGOs, during the Plenary

3,210 words per country



UPR 3rd CYCLE 2017-2021(2022)



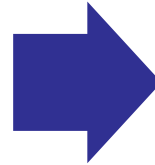
Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review (Third Cycle)														
	27 th session (1-12 May 2017)	28 th session (6-17 Nov 2017)	29 th session (Jan-Feb 2018)	30 th session (Apr-May 2018)	31 st session (Oct-Nov 2018)	32 nd session (Jan-Feb 2019)	33 rd session (Apr-May 2019)	34 th session (Oct-Nov 2019)	35 th session (Jan-Feb 2020)	36 th session (Apr-May 2020)	37 th session (Oct-Nov 2020)	38 th session (Jan-Feb 2021)	39 th session (Apr-May 2021)	40 th session (Oct-Nov 2021)
National report deadline	3 February 2017	7 August 2017	October 2017 (tentative)	February 2018 (tentative)	July 2018 (tentative)	October 2018 (tentative)	February 2019 (tentative)	July 2019 (tentative)	October 2019 (tentative)	February 2020 (tentative)	July 2020 (tentative)	October 2020 (tentative)	February 2021 (tentative)	July 2021 (tentative)
1	Bahrain	Czechia	France	Turkmenistan	Saudi Arabia	New Zealand	Norway	Italy	Kyrgyzstan	Belarus	Micronesia	Namibia	Suriname	Togo
2	Ecuador	Argentina	Tonga	Burkina Faso	Senegal	Afghanistan	Albania	El Salvador	Kiribati	Liberia	Lebanon	Niger	Greece	Syrian Arab Republic
3	Tunisia	Gabon	Romania	Cape Verde	China	Chile	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Gambia	Guinea	Malawi	Mauritania	Mozambique	Samoa	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
4	Morocco	Ghana	Mali	Colombia	Nigeria	Viet Nam	Côte d'Ivoire	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Mongolia	Nauru	Estonia	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Iceland
5	Indonesia	Peru	Botswana	Uzbekistan	Mexico	Uruguay	Portugal	Fiji	Spain	Panama	Rwanda	Paraguay	Sudan	Zimbabwe
6	Finland	Guatemala	Bahamas	Tuvalu	Mauritius	Yemen	Bhutan	San Marino	Lesotho	Maldives	Nepal	Belgium	Hungary	Lithuania
7	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Benin	Burundi	Germany	Jordan	Vanuatu	Dominica	Kazakhstan	Kenya	Andorra	Saint Lucia	Denmark	Papua New Guinea	Uganda
8	India	Republic of Korea	Luxembourg	Djibouti	Malaysia	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Angola	Armenia	Bulgaria	Oman	Palau	Tajikistan	Timor Leste
9	Brazil	Switzerland	Barbados	Canada	Central African Republic	Comoros	Brunei Darussalam	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Guinea-Bissau	Honduras	Austria	Somalia	United Republic of Tanzania	Republic of Moldova
10	Philippines	Pakistan	Montenegro	Bangladesh	Monaco	Slovakia	Costa Rica	Madagascar	Sweden	United States of America	Myanmar	Seychelles	Antigua and Barbuda	Haiti
11	Algeria	Zambia	United Arab Emirates	Russian Federation	Belize	Eritrea	Equatorial Guinea	Iraq	Grenada	Marshall Islands	Australia	Solomon Islands	Swaziland	South Sudan
12	Poland	Japan	Israel	Azerbaijan	Chad	Cyprus	Ethiopia	Slovenia	Turkey	Croatia	Georgia	Latvia	Trinidad and Tobago	
13	Netherlands	Ukraine	Liechtenstein	Cameroon	Congo	Dominican Republic	Qatar	Egypt	Guyana	Jamaica	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Sierra Leone	Thailand	
14	South Africa	Sri Lanka	Serbia	Cuba	Malta	Cambodia	Nicaragua	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Kuwait	Libya	Sao Tome and Principe	Singapore	Ireland	

3rd cycle of the UPR

A new momentum for constructive and cooperative engagement

SG report A/72/351

An opportunity to strengthen the engagement with all States on the follow-up and implementation of the outcomes



Through cooperative efforts and sharing of best practices among States and other stakeholders



And to provide an important basis for States to achieve greater results in both the implementation of the SDG and human rights protection at the country level



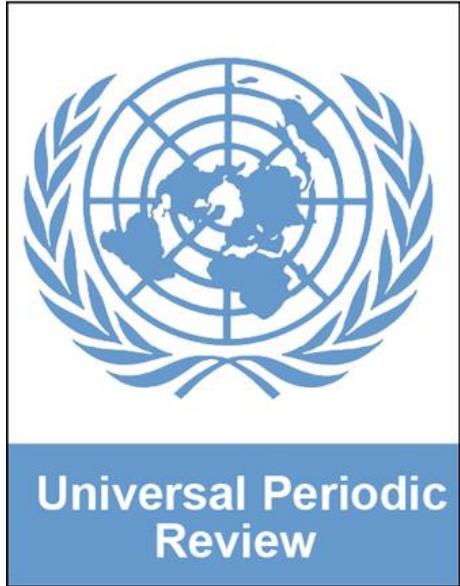
In order to create an environment conducive to addressing the root causes of human rights violations

The UPR 3rd cycle : opportunities

- Improved quality of questions and recommendations:
 - in terms of substantive focus and detail
 - pointing to the areas that need strengthening in order to address the root causes of human rights violations (i.e. cross-section of the critical human rights gaps at the country level)
- Active engagement of all stakeholders at the national and international levels

Report of the Secretary-General, A/72/351 (2017):

“International co-operation including through human rights mechanisms and their recommendations provide an important basis for States to achieve greater results in both the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and human rights protection at the country level.”



Role of Governments

- Inter-Ministerial coordination for reporting and follow-up to the UPR (NMRF)
- National Consultations with all stakeholders prior to the UPR review (Parliament, judiciary, NHRI, CSOs, the UNCT, regional human rights mechanisms, and others, such as HR defenders, academia, media)
- Preparation and submission of the National Report
- Participation during the UPR review in Geneva
- Adoption of the NHRAP and/or Recommendation Implementation Plan
- Coordination and cooperation with all stakeholders following the UPR review
- Submission of mid-term reports (on a voluntary basis)



Importance of the UPR Mid-term Report

- Mid-term reports are submitted on a voluntary basis
- As of June 2017, 65 countries submitted mid-term reports
- Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Chile, Finland, France, Japan, Mauritius, Monaco, Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, UK and Uruguay submitted mid-term reports following both cycles
- Mid-term reports:
 - provide further accountability
 - encourage follow-up to implementations of recommendations from the past UPR cycles
 - provide update on the status of implementation of recommendations
 - focus on concrete actions undertaken to address the human rights issues of concern



National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF)

A permanent governmental structure to:

- **Coordinate and prepare reports to and engage with** the international and regional human rights mechanisms (including the UPR, treaty bodies, and special procedures)
- **Coordinate and track national follow-up and implementation** of the treaty obligations and recommendations/decisions emanating from these mechanisms.

The national mechanism performs these functions in **coordination** with ministries, specialized State bodies (such as the national statistics office), SDG implementation focal point (agency/Ministry), Parliament and the Judiciary, as well as in **consultation** with the national human rights institution(s) and civil society.



National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF)

An effective NMRF (standing body) should have the following four key capacities:

- Engagement capacity
- Coordination capacity
- Consultation capacity
- Information management capacity

“NMRF have the potential to become one of the key components of the national human rights protection system, bringing international and regional human rights norms and practices directly to the national level by establishing a national coordination structure.”

Report of the Secretary-General A/72/351



Benefits of an NMRF

- National coordination structure- national ownership and engagement in reporting to the UPR and other mechanisms and follow up
- Easier communication between ministries-efficient and maximum use of resources
- Systematic and rational engagement with international and regional HR mechanisms- national coherence
- Empowers ministerial focal points to communicate and explain the human rights system and its recommendations within their ministries
- Structured and formalized contacts with parliament, the judiciary, NHRI and the civil society
- Building human rights expertise in every State
- Development of Human Rights Action Plans and UPR Recommendations Implementations Plans (follow-up)



Role of Parliaments and Judiciary

- Ensuring follow up to human rights recommendations which require national legislation and/or legislative reforms
- Participating in NMRF and contributing to the NHRAPs/RIPs
- Overseeing human rights policies and actions by Governments, especially the implementation of recommendations from all human rights mechanisms
- Increased reference to international human rights norms, jurisprudence and recommendations in court decisions
- Increasing compliance of judges, lawyers and prosecutors with the UN principles on the independence of the judiciary



Role of other national stakeholders, NHRIs and NGOs

All stakeholders are encouraged to:

- Participate in the national consultations held by the State under Review
- Send information on the human rights situation in the country
- Take the floor at the Human Rights Council during the adoption of the report
- Monitor and participate in the implementation by the State under Review of the UPR recommendations



Role of regional human rights mechanisms

- Reinforcing universal human rights standards at the regional level
- Cross-referencing of jurisprudence and other documentation with UPR recommendations
- Greater engagement in the UPR process and sharing of best practices in a continuous, consistent and systematic manner
- Mainstreaming recommendations from international human rights mechanisms in the regional human rights policies and jurisprudence



National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP)

- Comprehensive, nationally owned, plan, based on comprehensive base-line study
- Development involves wide consultations
- Content reflects narratives on status quo, challenges, priority thematic areas, planned programs and monitoring framework
- Limited time-frame (usually 4-5 years)
- HRM recommendations may inform priority issues and formulation of actions in the NHRAP (or any other national action plan including on SDG implementation)
- Methodology applied in elaborating a NHRAP may be applied to development of other national action plans, e.g. for plans for SDG implementation

“A national human rights action plan offers a structured and practical approach towards strengthened human rights realization, by placing human rights improvements, as practical goals, in the context of public policy... a baseline study may also draw upon the concerns and recommendations as expressed by the human rights mechanisms, including the universal periodic review.”

Report of the Secretary-General A/72/351



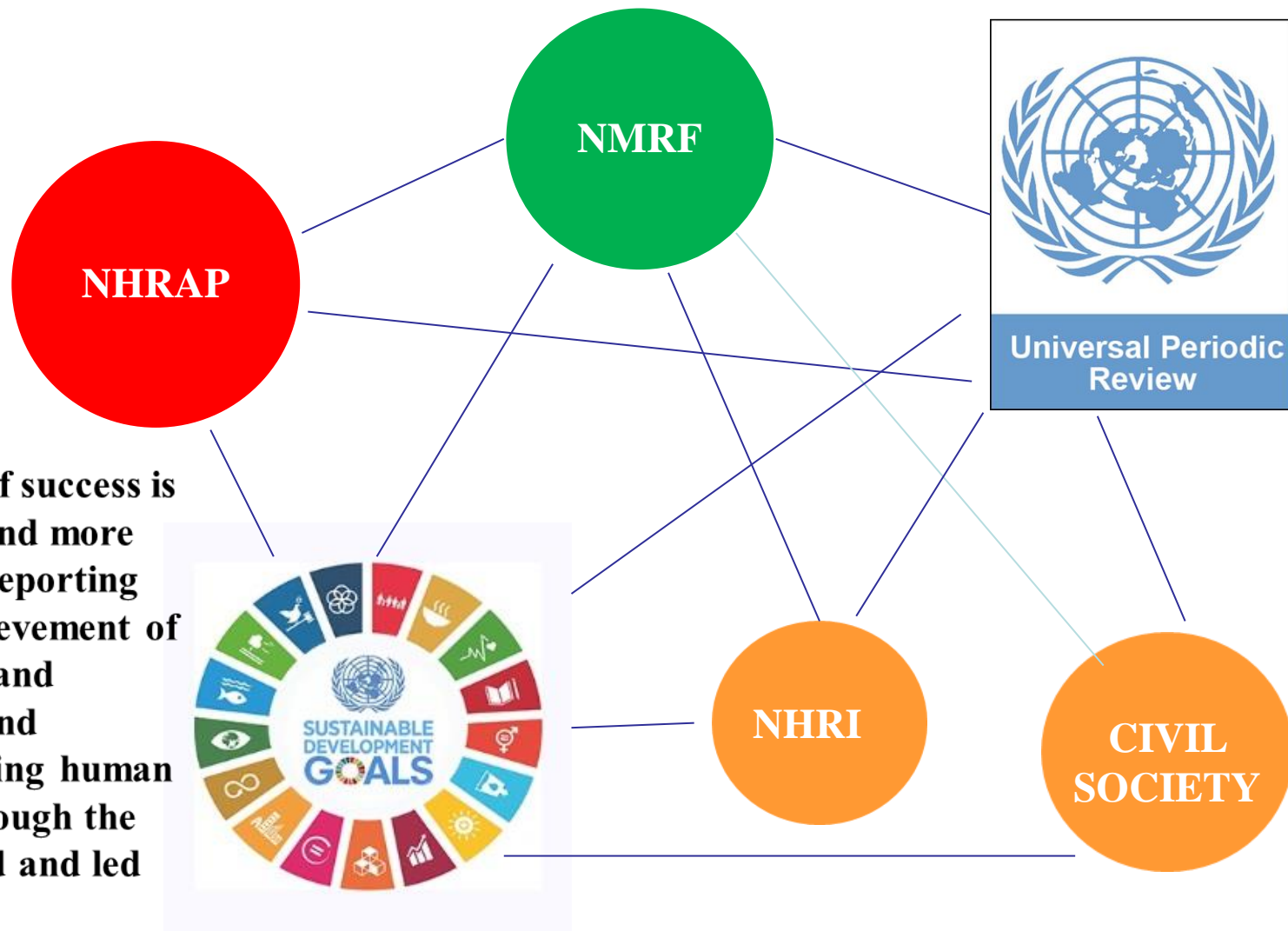
Recommendations Implementation Plan (RIP)

- Focused tool for use of Government entities
- Contains all HRM recommendations, thematically clustered
- Development largely an internal Government process, coordinated by the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF)
- Content reflects listings of clustered and prioritized recommendations
- Open-ended time frame (new recommendations to be integrated)
- Tracking its implementation will facilitate the periodic reporting to the HRMs
- Clustered recommendations can easily be cross-linked to SDGs to build synergies and linkages between the different follow-up and reporting for SDGs and human rights
- Useful tool for UNCTs to inform their CCA/UNDAF and interactions with the Government counterparts

Report of the Secretary-General A/72/351



UPR: Support to SDG implementation



“A benchmark of success is not only better and more comprehensive reporting but also the achievement of concrete results and changes in law and practice, improving human rights for all through the nationally owned and led processes”

Support to SDG implementation



Alignment
with human
rights
standards

Equality and non-
discrimination

Accountability



Participation

“OHCHR’s key priority is to ensure the SDGs are implemented in a manner consistent with international human rights standards.”

Universal Human Rights Index

- Provides easy access to a country-specific human rights information
- Aims at raising awareness of recommendations from international human rights mechanisms and assists States in the implementation of these recommendations
- Provides information on the human rights situation worldwide, and on the legal interpretation of international human rights norms which have evolved over the past years



UHRI: Linking SDGs with HRM recommendations (incl. UPR)

SEARCH HELP

Classification system

Search tips

Abbreviations

RELATED LINKS

Treaty bodies

Special procedures

Universal periodic review

Sustainable Development Goals

This page allows the user to search for recommendations by Sustainable Development Goals and their targets.



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (190 recommendations) ⁹

- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
- Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
- Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
- Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
- Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment

Human Rights Indicators

- Highlight operational elements of recommendations
- Bridge recommendations with national policy framework
- Provide yardstick for measuring implementation / progress

But it is only a tool, indicating something but not a substitute to more comprehensive and qualitative assessments



UN system support /OHCHR support through its field presences

- Support to Governments in establishing and strengthening standing NMRF and developing NHRAP
- Including the UPR recommendations in UN planning and programming processes, such as the UNDAF and other country level plans
- Support to Governments with UN policy advisory services and technical assistance for the UPR follow-up process
- Assistance to Governments with preparations for the UPR midterm review
- Dissemination of information on the UPR review outcomes



OHCHR support through its field presences

Examples

- In 2016, OHCHR supported the Government of the Niger in organizing two workshops to disseminate the outcomes of the UPR, among the Government and State institutions, the media, civil society and the NHRI as well as assisted to prepare and adopt an action plan on follow-up to UPR recommendations.
- In Argentina, OHCHR provided technical assistance to the Federal Human Rights Council to strengthen SIPEN, the national periodic reports system that is in place to monitor compliance with recommendations and reporting to human rights mechanisms.
- In Georgia, OHCHR supported amendments in the Parliament's internal charter to strengthen country's implementation of UN and COE conventions and the UPR recommendations. The Parliament will now consider periodically the status of implementation.



UPR Voluntary Trust Funds

HRC resolutions 6/17 and 16/21

The Voluntary Trust Fund for Participation in the UPR Mechanism

- Funding for travel of developing States under UPR review, in particular LDCs, to Geneva
- Funding for travel of members of «troika» from developing countries, in particular LDCs
- Training for member states in the preparation of national reports

*Request for funding should be submitted
six weeks prior to the UPR WG session
to uprstates@ohchr.org*



UPR Voluntary Trust Funds

HRC Resolutions 6/17 and 16/21

The Voluntary Trust Fund for the UPR implementation

- A source of financial and technical assistance to help countries, especially LDCs and SIDSs, to:
 - Implement recommendations emanating from the UPR
 - Establish and/or strengthen the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF), including implementation action plan and recommendations tracking and monitoring database
- Integration of support in the wider United Nations Country Team programme on UPR, for instance in the context of the UNDAF
- Support to implementing key thematic priority recommendations, for instance, torture prevention, the right to health, etc.

*Applications can be submitted all year around
to himplementation@ohchr.org*



The Voluntary Trust Fund for the UPR implementation

Examples

- In 2016, OHCHR provided extensive support to Samoa before, during and after its second universal periodic review in the form of a United Nations Volunteer/universal periodic review coordinator funded by the Voluntary Fund.
- In 2016, the Fund supported the participation of women in the discussions on the effective implementation of universal periodic review recommendations and the drafting of the national development strategy 2016-2030 was reinforced through workshops with civil society, targeting women in Mauritania

Contributions earmarked for the Fund can be made by Governments, NGOs, private and public entities and individuals



For further information please visit

- **Universal Periodic Review:** <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRMain.aspx>
- **National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF):**
http://www.ohchr.org/layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/Documents/Publications/HR_PUB_16_1_NMRF_PracticalGuide.pdf&action=default&DefaultItemOpen=1
- **National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP):**
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/PlansActions/Pages/PlansofActionIndex.aspx>
- **Mid-term Report on the UPR:**
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRImplementation.aspx>
- **Human Rights Indicators:**
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Indicators/Pages/HRIndicatorsIndex.aspx>
- **Universal Human Rights Index:** <http://uhri.ohchr.org/en/>
- **Sustainable Development Goals:** <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>
- **OHCHR field presence:** <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/Pages/WorkInField.aspx>
- **UPR Trust Funds:** <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRTrustFunds.aspx>



OHCHR/CTMD/UPR BRANCH

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