

Post-UPR consultation toolkit: strategies for civil society advocacy, research & coordination



Post-UPR* consultations provide a space for civil society to collectively discuss potential strategies to support and monitor the implementation of UPR recommendations. The following represents a non-exhaustive list of activities to be considered during the post-UPR consultations.

<u>Encouraging State acceptance of</u> recommendations

Following the 3.5 hour UPR examination at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, the State under Review (SuR) has approximately five months to determine which recommendations it will accept or note. The consultation can be used to develop a strategy to lobby the SuR, and other relevant institutions, to accept key/all recommendations in advance of the final UPR adoption.

Follow-up with the national government

Civil society can pursue concerted engagement with various relevant government bodies to ensure effective implementation & integration of recommendations. In particular, CSOs can urge national human rights institutions to incorporate monitoring of UPR recommendations, encourage Parliament to support the UPR with legal and budgetary concessions, and engage with the government to establish a national follow-up mechanism responsible for coordinating implementation of the UPR recommendations.

Dissemination of the UPR outcome

Civil society can use the consultation to devise a strategy to translate, disseminate and organize orientation campaigns about UPR recommendations. CSOs can develop approaches to raising awareness and enhancing conversance with the UPR recommendations among media, constituents, where appropriate with State agencies, and other bodies responsible for the realization and operationalization of UPR recommendations.

Engagement with the international community

The consultation also provides an opportunity to develop a plan of action to engage with members of the international community to support implementation of UPR recommendations. Among other activities, CSOs can engage with embassies to encourage them to raise UPR recommendations in bilateral discussions as well as local offices of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and other UN bodies.

Developing a civil society outcome charter

The UPR provide an occasion for civil society to develop cohesive and coordinated approaches to monitor and engage in policy discussions on a range of human rights issues. By developing an UPR outcome charter, which articulates the various responsibilities, timeframes and indicators for successful implementation of UPR recommendations, civil society groups can embed the UPR process into ongoing policy and advocacy approaches.

Continued joint monitoring of UPR recommendations

Civil society can utilize the consultation to develop a sustained advocacy and monitoring approach for UPR recommendations. Specifically, the consultation can be seen as the first among several occasions for civil society to engage in the UPR process. Future entry points for civil society collaboration include annual assessments of UPR progress and developing a parallel mid-term UPR report.

^{*}The UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is the principal international mechanism to facilitate the examination of a country's human rights record every 5 years.