



## The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the NGOs: Possibilities to contribute to the process

<p>BEFORE the exam in the UPR Working Group</p> <p><i>Start planning one year ahead!</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Submit information</b> to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to UPRsubmissions@ohchr.org to be taken into account in the UPR process. Max. 5 pages, see also <a href="http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/TechnicalGuideEN.pdf">www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/TechnicalGuideEN.pdf</a></li> <li>2. <b>Participate in national consultations</b> held by the State under review (SuR) or encourage the SuR to hold such consultations.</li> <li>3. <b>Lobbying</b> : approach other States and encourage them to ask certain questions (in writing or orally) and to make certain recommendations :             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contact their diplomatic missions in Geneva</li> <li>- Contact their Embassies in the SuR</li> </ul>             To identify States with sympathies for certain topics, see: <a href="http://www.upr-info.org/database/">http://www.upr-info.org/database/</a> </li> </ol>
<p>DURING the session of the UPR Working Group</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. <b>Assist to the Working Group</b> (yet no possibility to make a statement)</li> <li>5. <b>Organise a side event</b> on the human rights situation in the SuR</li> <li>6. <b>Lobbying</b>: meet State delegations in person, remind them of the questions and recommendations you suggested under [3], hand them a short list with topics, questions and recommendations to touch upon. Examples under <a href="http://www.upr-info.org/IMG/doc/08.12.AI.Country_Recommendations_UPR-3.doc">www.upr-info.org/IMG/doc/08.12.AI.Country_Recommendations_UPR-3.doc</a> and <a href="http://www.welcomedesk.org/pdf/upr_list_of_issues_example.pdf">www.welcomedesk.org/pdf/upr_list_of_issues_example.pdf</a></li> <li>7. <b>Meet the delegation of the SuR</b> in Geneva: take advantage of the occasion to personally meet high-level representatives of your government, present them the observations and demands of civil society.</li> <li>8. <b>Disseminate information on the review at the national level</b>: Inform the media and public opinion about discussions held in Geneva (interesting idea : organise round-tables and screenings of the live video transmission under <a href="http://www.un.org/webcast/unhrc/index.asp">www.un.org/webcast/unhrc/index.asp</a>)</li> </ol>
<p>BETWEEN the Working Group and the plenary session of the Human Rights Council</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. <b>Disseminate information on the outcome at the national level</b>: Draw attention to recommendations and questions received by the SuR and to the answer the government provided (in particular, if the recommendations have been accepted or rejected).</li> <li>10. <b>Follow-up on recommendations</b>:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approach the government of the SuR to obtain clear answers to recommendations (accepted or rejected)</li> <li>- Approach other State delegations that have issued particular recommendations. Encourage them to follow-up on their recommendations and to obtain a clear answer (recommendation accepted or refused).</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<p>DURING the plenary session of the Human Rights Council</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. <b>Assist to the plenary session</b> under item 6 (possibility to <b>make an oral and/or written statement</b> providing general comments before the adoption of the outcome)</li> <li>12. <b>Organise a side event</b> on the SuR</li> <li>13. <b>Meet the delegation of the SuR</b> (see [7])</li> <li>14. <b>Disseminate information on the review at the national level</b> (see [8])</li> </ol>
<p>FOLLOW-UP</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. <b>Disseminate information on the outcome at the national level</b> (see [9])</li> <li>16. <b>Monitor implementation of the recommendations</b> the SuR has accepted, as well as of potential voluntary commitments taken by the SuR:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- By disseminating information in the media and public opinion</li> <li>- By engaging in a dialogue with the government</li> <li>- By using the UPR results in other proceedings with UN human rights mechanisms, for instance the treaty bodies.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>



## Further references on civil society engagement with the UPR

*Road Map for Civil Society Engagement with the UPR*, by Conectas and International Service for Human Rights:  
[www.conectas.org/coloquio/leituras/RoadMap\\_en\\_16.09.09.pdf](http://www.conectas.org/coloquio/leituras/RoadMap_en_16.09.09.pdf)

*The Universal Periodic Review – Handbook*, by the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)  
[www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/UPR\\_HANDBOOK.pdf](http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/UPR_HANDBOOK.pdf)

*The Universal Periodic Review: The Role of Civil Society*, by Amnesty International  
[www.amnesty.org/en/united-nations/universal-periodic-review/role-of-civil-society](http://www.amnesty.org/en/united-nations/universal-periodic-review/role-of-civil-society)

*NGO page*, by UPR-info.org:  
[www.upr-info.org/-NGOs-.html](http://www.upr-info.org/-NGOs-.html)

*Questions and Answers on the Universal Periodic Review*, by International Alliance of Women:  
[www.womenalliance.org/pdf/UPR\\_AandA.pdf](http://www.womenalliance.org/pdf/UPR_AandA.pdf)

*How can NGOs engage with the UPR?*, by International Service for Human Rights  
[www.ishr.ch/upr/ngos-and-the-upr](http://www.ishr.ch/upr/ngos-and-the-upr)