Human Rights Engagement in Practice

Session 6 – Make it happen: Implementing human rights engagement
Ground rules for this webinar

- The webinar will last for 1.5 hours
- Participate – raise your hand, chat
- Mute your microphone when you are not speaking
- Share your comments, observations and questions
What this session is about

• Deep dive into how the mechanisms work
• Concrete steps for cluster engagement
• National mechanisms for reporting and follow-up
• National human rights action plans
• Funds to support implementation of human rights
What happens *during* a session of a human rights mechanism

In the following exercise, you will:
• Compare the dialogue between States and the human rights mechanisms
• Compare the recommendations issued by different human rights mechanisms of human rights
Group work

You will now go to your breakout rooms to watch a video of a session of one of the mechanisms. Please consider the following questions while watching the video:

• what is a relevant recommendation?
• what does it need to have?
• what purposes does a recommendation need to fulfil?

Make sure you assign a note taker and a presenter for the debrief
What happens *after* a session of a human rights mechanism

- Now let's discuss what happens after a session takes place!
- In your break-out rooms you will discuss the questions on the next slide
You will now go back to the breakrooms with the same group you have been in the previous exercise. Please discuss the following questions in your group:

• What is follow-up?
• Who is responsible for the implementation of recommendations from the human rights mechanisms?
• What role does the cluster play in this process?
• What is the purpose for Clusters to conduct follow-up?
• How should the cluster carry out its follow-up?
• Where do we begin?
# National Human Rights Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>National human rights institutions</th>
<th>National mechanisms for reporting and follow-up</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mandate</strong></td>
<td>To promote and protect human rights</td>
<td>To assist the Government with its reporting obligations to the human rights mechanisms and follow-up</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Source</strong></td>
<td>Paris Principles</td>
<td>Government or legislative legal basis/or Terms of Reference</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Functions</strong></td>
<td>Monitoring, investigating, reporting, dealing with individual cases, advice</td>
<td>Prepare national reports and information to human rights mechanisms</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Coordinate the follow-up on recommendations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Communicate with the human rights mechanisms on individual communications, urgent actions, facilitation of visits.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Way of working</strong></td>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>Government supervision</td>
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Implementation of international obligations at the national level

**National Human Rights Action Plans**

- Comprehensive, nationally owned, plan
- Based on comprehensive base-line study
- Development involves wide consultations (national and local Government, NHRI, civil society, general public)
- 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 the formulation of actions in the NHRAP (or any other national action plan including on SDG implementation), although its scope is wider and themes and actions are nationally formulated
- Methodology applied in elaborating a NHRAP should be applied to development of other national action plans, e.g. for plans for SDG implementation

**Recommendations Implementation Plans**

- 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/UNSDCF and interactions with the Government counterparts
National plans of action for the promotion and protection of human rights

• Public documents that must be widely disseminated.

• Work to promote and protect human rights is a continuous process and a nation-wide undertaking.

• Participation of national authorities and broad consultations with civil society organizations.
UN Funds supporting the implementation of human rights

• Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance related to the Universal Periodic Review

• The “Assisting Communities Together” ACT Project

• UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture
Key messages

• Human rights mechanisms have different processes and procedures, and they issue different kinds of recommendations, which may affect how Clusters engages with them and how we can follow up on their outcomes.
• Using human rights recommendations can strengthen advocacy and protection interventions.
• National mechanisms for reporting and follow-up can support coordination in the implementation of human rights recommendations.
• National human rights action plans can be useful tools to promote the inclusion of persons of concern in national frameworks.
• Clusters can work with Government and other stakeholders in projects funded through UN funds and development initiatives in order to support the implementation of human rights.
Thank you for your attention!

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