How to Optimize Stakeholders' Reports for the UPR

14 May 2021
How can you have an impact on the UPR of your country?
Technical Guidance and Good Practices for the submission of stakeholders’ reports to the UPR

1. Intro: The Universal Periodic Review
2. Other Stakeholders Report
   2.1 Rules of Submission of a Report
   2.2 Good practices
3. Using Human Rights Data in the UPR
   3.1 Demo of the Rights Tracker
1. The UPR
OBJECTIVE:
Improve the human rights situation on the ground and share best practices among stakeholders
The national report
Written by the State under Review with broad national consultations

Compilation of information
by the OHCHR
Treaty bodies
Special Procedures
UN Agencies

Documents for the review
human rights situation

Summary of CSOs and NHRIs reports by OHCHR
Reports written by
- National human rights institutions
- CSOs / NGOs
Why a CSO submission?

Alternative to the States’ Reports

Provide updated and first-hand information on your country

Why should you submit a report to the UPR?

Provide solutions by proposing action-oriented recommendations

Raise awareness about “new” human rights issues

Assess the implementation of the recommendations from the 2nd cycle.
2. Other Stakeholders’ Report

2.1 Rules of Submission
Who can submit?

- UN entities, CSOs, NHRIs, groups of academics
- **No anonymous submission** will be considered
- Individual submission or Joint submissions (2 or more CSOs)
An organisation may submit one individual submission and participate in several joint submissions.

**Advantages of joint submissions:**
- Adds weight to concerns expressed and recommendations suggested in the submission
- Increases likelihood of recommendations being made by States

**Advantages of individual submissions:**
- Less consensus-seeking
- Quicker drafting process
- Often used by well-known organisations as they are certain of being included in the summary
Word-limit:

- Joint submission: **5,630 words** (about 10 pages)
- Individual submission: **2,815 words** (about 5 pages)
- Cover page, endnotes and annexes do not count
Content: To do

Prioritise first-hand views, data, conclusions and findings. Use technical language and concrete examples.

Include a methodology chapter: information gathering process, consultations, desk review, field research, observation, interviews, testimonies etc.

Focus on assessments of implementation of past recommendations and comment on their impact thereon, as well as on developments.
Content: To do

Highlight challenges, but also **mention improvements and good practices** if any.

Suggest **SMART** recommendations (linked to themes addressed in the submission).

Check previous recommendations received by your country, if not implemented, make them SMART if necessary.

Include questions

**Be precise and concise in information presented.** Mention where further information on the topic can be found (references).
Submission format

- Word document. Use paragraph and page numbers
- Cover page: presentation of the coalition (date of establishment, purpose), contact details
- Language: Written contributions should be submitted in one of the UN official languages and preferably in English, French or Spanish
- Maximum 10 annexes: Matrice, midterm report, list of submitting organisations, additional documentation can be annexed for reference.
- Endnotes to reference information. Will not be considered for the summary.
Do not:

- Include pictures or maps
- Use abusive language (report will not be considered)
- Use subjective or emotional language (risk that the report will not be considered and if published, will undermine the credibility of the information presented).
When to submit a report?

Next Deadline:

Timeline for UPR engagement in the current cycle

Before 15:00 Gva time!!

Session 40 of the UPR
Where to submit the Report?

- Submit well in advance to avoid technical glitches
- Register a profile at least 48 hours before the submission
  [https://uprdoc.ohchr.org](https://uprdoc.ohchr.org)
- Submissions received after the deadline will not be considered
- Uploaded submissions cannot be edited
- uprsubmissions@ohchr.org can be contacted for assistance
Q & A
2.2 Good practices

– OHCHR Matrix
– SMART recommendations
– Integrated Approach
– More tips!
Saves space in the CSO submission

Matrice of Recommendations

Suggested levels of implementation: Fully, partially or not implemented. Alternatively, in percentages.

OHCHR Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Full list of themes</th>
<th>Assessment/comments on level of implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theme: E23 Right to adequate housing</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

109.190 Increase access to electricity, basic sanitation and running water (Maldives)
Source of position: A/HRC/34/5/Add.1
Supported E23 Right to adequate housing E16 Human Rights & drinking water and sanitation
Affected persons: - general

**Theme: E51 Right to education - General**

109.191 Provide access to education to children (Pakistan)
Source of position: A/HRC/34/5/Add.1
Supported E51 Right to education - General
Affected persons: - children

109.194 Take effective steps to address the educational needs of all children, even in these difficult conditions (Singapore)
Source of position: A/HRC/34/5/Add.1
Supported E51 Right to education - General
Affected persons: - children

109.195 Step up efforts for the protection of schools with a view to ensuring that education may continue (Argentina)
Source of position: A/HRC/34/5/Add.1
Supported E51 Right to education - General
Affected persons: - children

109.191 Ensure access to basic medical services and education and to protect children from the worst forms of child labour (Holy See)
Source of position: A/HRC/34/5/Add.1
Supported E51 Right to education - General
F10 Children: definition; general principles; protection
F11 Children: protection against exploitation
Affected persons: - children

109.192 Ensure equal access to education for all vulnerable people, including women, children and persons with disabilities (Lao People’s Democratic Republic)
Source of position: A/HRC/34/5/Add.1
Supported E51 Right to education - General
F11 Children: protection against exploitation
Affected persons: - women
- children
- persons with disabilities

**Theme: F12 Discrimination against women**

109.88 Continue and strengthen efforts in the fight for gender equality (Nicaragua)
Source of position: A/HRC/34/5/Add.1
Supported F12 Discrimination against women
Affected persons: - women
SMART Recommendations

**S** - Specific
Requires a well defined action in relation to a specific right or violation.

**M** - Measurable
Can the recommendation be monitored and implementation be assessed?

**A** - Achievable
This is determined by the capacity of a SuR to comply with the recommendation and refers to material capacity, not political will.

**R** - Relevant
Is the recommendation relevant to the in-country situation and linked to the improvement of human rights?

**T** - Time-bound
The time frame for implementation of recommendations; by the next review or sooner.
Be specific and precise!

The *specific* dimension requires a clear and well-defined **action**

- What action/s do you expect the Government to undertake to implement the recommendation?
- 1 recommendation = 1 theme, and 1 action

Use Action Verbs for Smart Recommendations!
States’ Human rights obligations

Adopt an integrated Approach
Apply a gender analysis in your reports:
- to assess if measures/actions taken by the government took into account the implications for women and men.
- To suggest inclusive recommendations

Example: UPR rec on access to education in rural areas
In measures/actions taken to ensure access to education in rural areas, do we take into account implications for girls and boys? Will it be sufficient to ensure access for girls living in rural areas or do they face specific challenges?
As the Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, said: “With common cause for common sense and facts, we can defeat COVID-19 -- and build a healthier, more equitable, just and resilient world”.
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