

Annex E

UPR Info Pre-Sessions



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OBJECTIVES

- To offer the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and civil society organisations (CSOs) a **unique advocacy platform** to brief Permanent Missions on the human rights situation in the States under Review; and
- To **influence the recommendations** that the international community will make to the State under Review by lobbying several Missions at once.

FORMAT

- **Country-specific human rights meetings** are organised one month prior to the UPR Working Group session, bringing together Permanent Missions, NHRIs and CSOs to discuss the situation on the ground in the forthcoming States under Review;
- Each Pre-session **lasts one hour**. The NHRI and CSOs are given the floor to share their assessment of the human rights situation in the country since the previous review and the progress accomplished by the State under Review in implementing the recommendations; and
- With the **transparency and universality principles** in mind, all Permanent Missions are invited, including the State under Review.

OUTCOMES

- The Pre-sessions offer an **exchange of information** on the human rights situation of the forthcoming State under Review;
- States receive **up-to-date information, precise questions and recommendations to make at following UPR Working Group session**. The information given reflects the reality on the ground and represents the concerns of local and national rights-holders;
- *UPR Info* has received extensive positive feedback from participants highlighting the importance of the UPR Pre-Sessions as a **forum for collaboration and information sharing**; and
- The Pre-Sessions fill the expressed need from both Permanent Missions and CSOs to meet prior to the UPR Working Group Session to identify, discuss, and further develop recommendations to ensure focused attention to the most relevant human rights issues during the review.

NHRI PARTICIPATION

Why participate?

- As the primary institution tasked with monitoring human rights compliance, the NHRI has an unparalleled insight into a broad array of issues at the national level;
- The NHRI liaises with multiple stakeholders in the UPR process including government bodies, local CSOs and rights holders, offering a unique overview of UPR participation from both State and civil society perspective; and
- NHRIs with A-status have special recognition in the UPR process. A-status NHRIs have a dedicated section in the summary of other stakeholders' information, and are given the floor directly after the State under Review during the adoption at the UN HRC plenary session.

Who should participate?

NHRI staff, preferably senior representatives, who have been working on the UPR process, including monitoring the implementation of recommendations. We particularly encourage the participation of women speakers.

How to participate?

The Pre-sessions take place approximately one month in advance of the UPR Working Group. *UPR Info* sends a call for applications about three months in advance of the Pre-sessions. Interested parties should complete and return the application form by email, as well as attach the NHRI's UPR submission. Information is available at www.upr-info.org/en/upr-process/pre-sessions. To ensure that your NHRI is included in the list of contacts, please email your contact information to: presessions@upr-info.org