NHRCT engagement during the past 3rd and 4th UPR cycles and suggestions for the 5th UPR cycle

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1. Good, promising, and innovative practices during the 3rd and 4th UPR cycles

During the 3rd and 4th UPR cycles, the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT) undertook a range of measures to strengthen its engagement at all stages of the UPR process:

1.1 Preparation of written submissions

The NHRCT prepares its UPR alternative reports through a participatory and evidence-based consultation process. It reviews recommendations from earlier cycles—including accepted and noted recommendations and voluntary pledges—to assess progress, identify gaps and set priorities. The quality of submissions has been strengthened through evidence-based reporting, drawing on complaints data, investigations, thematic studies and monitoring of human rights situations nationwide. These sources provide direct insight and help ensure that the report accurately reflects key human rights concerns.

1.2 Bridging role with stakeholders

The NHRCT regards stakeholder consultation as an important part of its UPR engagement. In drafting its reports, it consults relevant state agencies, academic institutions, civil society and other sectors to capture realities on the ground. For example, the consultation convened on 6 March 2026 for Thailand's fourth-cycle UPR alternative report brought together representatives of state agencies, academia and civil society, with contributions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and OHCHR.

The NHRCT also seeks to engage groups with limited opportunities to submit reports or participate directly in the UPR, ensuring their perspectives are reflected. Through these consultations, the Commission functions both as a reporting body and as a bridge among stakeholders, promoting dialogue and strengthening the evidence base of its submissions.

1.3 Role in government-held consultations prior to the review

The NHRCT contributed substantively to national consultations by serving in an advisory capacity on the national working group for the UPR and by providing independent assessments. Its expertise and analysis supported the effective formulation and implementation of accepted recommendations.

1.4 Engagement with the executive branch

Recommendations contained in the NHRCT's alternative reports are transmitted to the Government as policy recommendations in accordance with the Commission's constitutional mandate. The NHRCT advises relevant authorities on measures to address identified human rights concerns and continues to monitor and follow up on implementation.

1.5 Implementation and follow-up of UPR recommendations

The NHRCT monitors implementation of its own recommendations and UPR recommendations through regular consultations, field visits and its monitoring mechanisms, and through enhanced cooperation with civil society organizations to gather independent information and promote accountability.

The Commission integrates UPR recommendations into its own work—monitoring human rights situations, issuing policy recommendations and engaging stakeholders—to promote sustained attention and consistent follow-up across review cycles.

Information on the implementation of UPR recommendations is also incorporated in the NHRCT written submissions to treaty bodies where relevant. This is to encourage constructive dialogue between the treaty bodies and the State on how to drive forward their implementation in a more effective manner.

1.6 Capacity-building and knowledge-sharing on the UPR

To strengthen stakeholder engagement, the NHRCT organized capacity-building initiatives for civil society and other stakeholders. Notably, the Commission invited an OHCHR expert to provide technical guidance on the UPR drafting process, including preparation of stakeholder submissions. This initiative enhanced the quality, inclusiveness and effectiveness of stakeholder participation in Thailand's UPR process.

2. Suggested innovative practices for the 5th UPR cycle

To further strengthen NHRI engagement at all stages of the UPR cycle, the NHRCT proposes the following innovations:

2.1 Consider greater flexibility in word limits for NHRI submissions

Current word limits for stakeholder submissions apply uniformly to all contributors. While this promotes consistency, it may be useful to recognize the distinct role of NHRIs, which have broad mandates covering the full range of human rights. The UPR process could consider options that provide greater flexibility in NHRI submissions or explore a dedicated format for NHRI inputs, ensuring that comprehensive and balanced information is reflected in the review.

2.2 Strengthen opportunities for NHRI engagement in the UPR dialogue

Given the unique role of NHRIs established in accordance with the Paris Principles, the UPR process should consider additional opportunities to facilitate meaningful engagement by NHRIs during the review cycle. Current opportunities for NHRI contribution during the consideration of national reports are time-limited. Expanding the space for NHRI interventions would help ensure that independent assessments and first-hand information are more fully reflected in the dialogue, enriching the evidence base and supporting constructive national follow-up.

2.3 Support broader participation through language accessibility

Language requirements can present practical barriers for local stakeholders wishing to engage with the UPR. Participants at the NHRCT's 6 March 2026 stakeholder consultation noted that language requirements for submissions can impede local organisations and grassroots actors. The UPR process could explore mechanisms to facilitate translation or language support for submissions prepared in national languages, thereby enabling broader and more inclusive participation.

2.4 Introduce thematic and format innovations for emerging issues

Consideration should be given to introducing more flexible thematic formats within the UPR to better capture emerging and cross-cutting human rights issues not yet fully addressed under specific international human rights instruments. This could include dedicated thematic sections or guidance on reporting areas such as the rights of older persons, the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable

environment (including air quality), and human rights in the digital era. Such measures would enable more forward-looking, responsive and context-sensitive assessments of human rights challenges.

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