NHRI engagement in the 3rd and 4th UPR cycles

Responses received on promising, good and innovative practices

The fifth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism of the Human Rights Council is scheduled to start in 2027 and will run until 2032. During the current and previous cycles, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) have systematically contributed to the UPR process through submissions for the Summary of Stakeholder Information, participation in the adoption of the UPR outcomes, and through monitoring and advocating for the implementation of UPR recommendations by the Government. The establishment and strengthening of NHRIs and the discharge of their respective mandates in full compliance with the Paris Principles constitute regular recommendations made to States under Review.

In order to take stock, a letter was sent on 14 January 2026 to all A and B status NHRIs with a request for concrete examples of their good, promising and innovative UPR-related practices[1] during the third and fourth UPR cycles, and their impact.

The letter outlined that such practices could relate to, inter alia:

- implementation of UPR recommendations (monitoring, cooperation with the executive and legislative branches, cooperation with civil society)
- advocacy and awareness raising at all stages
- its role regarding Government-held consultations prior to the review
- written submissions for the Summary of Stakeholder Information (process of drafting, structure, contents) and
- participation in the adoptions.

The below is an overview of the responses received, in alphabetical order, that have **explicitly highlighted UPR-related practices**. Information on general practices and national activities that have not been clearly linked to the UPR have been omitted from this report.

For further details, please consult the original submission.

1. Albania (People's Advocate)

The People's Advocate, with the initial support of the UN Office in Albania, conducted comprehensive, institution-wide training for its entire staff on the UPR mechanism. The training provided practical guidance, enabling the staff to systematically refer to UPR recommendations when exercising its mandate to address human rights violations and the State's actions or inactions.

2. Armenia (Human Rights Defender)

The Human Rights Defender participated in the parliamentary hearings initiated by the Standing Committee on Protection of Human Rights and Public Affairs of the National Assembly in the context of the fourth cycle UPR of Armenia.

[1] For further information, please consult https://knowledgegateway.ohchr.org/escr-hub/practices/about

In its submission for the stakeholder summary, the Human Rights Defender covered its thematic priorities and included a review of the implementation of UPR recommendations made to Armenia regarding the Human Rights Defender. The Human Rights Defender also submitted both a written and a video statement for the UPR adoption of Armenia during the 60th session of the Human Rights Council.

3. Australia (Australian Human Rights Commission)

To prepare for Australia's UPR appearance, the Commission collaborated with civil society organisations to advocate for recommendations in their submissions and encourage states to make recommendations that are SMART.

The Commission and NGO coalition invited every country with a diplomatic presence in Australia to an extended in-person briefing in Canberra, followed by four short online thematic sessions that explored key issues from the Commission and NGO coalitions' submissions. Representatives from 60 countries attended at least one of these events.

The Commission also sent a personalised letter to every UN member state that contained (1) the recommendations made by the country in the last UPR cycle and their status; (2) recommendations in the Commission's submission that it believed could be of particular note to the country, based on the previous recommendations the country had made to Australia and other countries; and (3) a link to the Commission submission and fact sheets supporting its recommendations.

In addition, the Commission met with permanent missions in Geneva and participated in the UPR info pre-session

Initial conservative analysis of the recommendations received by Australia during the 4th cycle showed that 65% of the countries that spoke gave recommendations that either were or were similar to the recommendation the Commission suggested they make or used language from the content or recommendations from the Commission's submission.

4. Azerbaijan (Human Rights Commissioner, Ombudsman)

<u>Implementation of UPR recommendations</u>

The Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) may review and analyze the accepted recommendations in accordance with its mandate and areas of competence and consider them in identifying priority human rights issues and planning future monitoring and reporting activities. The accepted recommendations may also be reflected in the Ombudsman's annual reports, thematic assessments, as well as opinions and recommendations submitted to the relevant state authorities.

It systematically assesses the implementation status of UPR recommendations and identifies existing challenges. Based on visits, monitoring activities, thematic studies, on-site inspections, and the analysis of applications received by the Ombudsman, recommendations were

submitted to the relevant state authorities, and proposals were put forward with regard to improving legislation and administrative practices. The Commissioner provided opinions and recommendations to the Milli Majlis (Parliament), relevant central executive authorities, and other competent institutions regarding the protection of human rights, the implementation of legislation, and the improvement of administrative practices.

The Ombudsman submits proposals to relevant state authorities concerning the effective implementation of international obligations and UPR recommendations in the field of human rights protection and promotion and contributes to discussions and information exchange on the existing human rights situation within the framework of cooperation with state institutions and civil society organizations.

The Ombudsman's authority to provide opinions and recommendations regarding the implementation of state programs, strategies, national action plans, and policy concepts serves as an important institutional mechanism for linking international human rights obligations and UPR recommendations with national policy documents.

Advocacy and awareness raising

The Ombudsman has carried out continuous awareness-raising and information activities on the UPR aimed at promoting international human rights standards, the State's human rights obligations, and the recommendations accepted in the field of human rights.

Written submissions for the Summary of Stakeholder Information

The written submissions prepared by the Ombudsman within the framework of the UPR reflect the Ombudsman's independent observations in the field of human rights protection and promotion, findings derived from monitoring activities, analysis of complaints, and relevant recommendations. In the process of preparing these submissions, information collected by the Ombudsman's Office, regional centers, relevant structural units, as well as national preventive and independent monitoring mechanisms is utilized. The structure of the written submissions is generally organized according to the main thematic areas of the UPR recommendations.

The submission presents, in an interconnected manner, the current situation, identified systemic challenges, good practices, institutional developments, and practical recommendations. In particular, following the expansion of the Ombudsman's mandate in 2023, the designation as an independent monitoring mechanism for the implementation of the "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" and the "Convention on the Rights of the Child", as well as for the promotion of equality and prevention of discrimination, has enabled a more systematic and thematic structuring of the written submissions.

At the same time, the Ombudsman's annual reports, specialized and thematic reports, statements, appeals, awareness-raising materials, and other information resources serve as important sources for the preparation of these written submissions.

5. Bahrain (National Institution for Human Rights)

In follow up to UPR recommendations to strengthen CSOs and create an enabling environment for them, the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) began in 2023 to hold human rights forums to strengthen partnerships with CSOs. These forums addressed human rights developments and challenges in the Kingdom of Bahrain and resulted in a set of recommendations. Based on the outcomes of the consultative meetings, a consultative working group was established in 2024, comprised of eight CSOs working in the field of human rights, to enhance cooperation and coordinate efforts. After studying the results of the meetings, in 2026, new working groups were established between the NIHR and CSOs working in the field of women's and children's rights, the right to health, human rights and business, and technology and digital rights, with the aim to foster cooperation, exchange experiences and expertise, build capacity of its members, channelling of complaints to the NIHR, conduct legislative studies and propose amendments, and assess public awareness of human rights.

In follow up to UPR recommendations regarding the strengthening of the protection of the rights of women and children, the NIHR established in June 2023 the position of Child Rights Commissioner, appointing one of its commissioners to this role. The Commissioner assesses the impact of new policies on children's rights, ensures the adequacy of complaints and services provided to them, establishes partnerships with relevant government agencies and CSOs concerned with children's rights, and conducts research and studies related to the best interests of the child.

6. Benin (Commission béninoise des droits de l'homme)

The Commission intervenes as a follow-up actor for the implementation of the UPR recommendations made to Benin. Good practices applied by the Commission include:

- setting up a committee to follow up on the UPR recommendations, which resulted in good cooperation with the executive branch and civil society organisations through a consultation framework.
- making recommendations to various stakeholders in its reports (reports on the state of human rights, detailed reports, mid-term reports) aimed at drawing their attention to specific themes in UPR recommendations.
- regularly participating in workshops organised by the Government and providing its position on topics to be debated.
- initiating a meeting in Geneva between the delegation of civil society organizations that had presented an alternative UPR report and the Deputy Permanent Representative of Benin to UNOG.
- The holding in Cotonou of a meeting to evaluate the UPR process, including an analysis of the recommendations received by Benin. The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Justice and included all the stakeholders in the process. It also provided an opportunity to review with the Minister of Justice some of Benin's noted recommendations.
- Making a significant contribution to the development of the Government's UPR roadmap.
- Participating in the preparation of the mid-term reports of the various stakeholders.

7. Bosnia and Herzegovina (Institute of Human Rights Ombudsmen)

The Institute of Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina continuously monitors the state of human rights in areas covered by the UPR recommendations by handling individual complaints from citizens, initiating *ex officio* proceedings, and preparing annual and special reports. In April 2024, in order to monitor the implementation of recommendations, it published a special report entitled *Analysis of the Implementation of Recommendations of the Institution of Human Rights Ombudsman of BiH*, which assessed the actions of the competent bodies in accordance with the UPR recommendations and identified challenges in their implementation.

8. Burundi (Commission nationale indépendante des droits de l'homme)

In preparation for each UPR, the Commission nationale indépendante des droits de l'homme (CNIDH) conducts consultations with civil society organizations to exchange on the human rights situation in all its aspects. Following the review, the CNIDH shares the recommendations with state actors, CSOs, the media, religious denominations and other partners, with the objective to advocate for the effective implementation and regular evaluation of the recommendations.

The CNIDH organized a workshop for its various partners to assess the state of implementation of the recommendations of the 4th cycle of the UPR. At the end of the workshop, participants adopted a roadmap aligned with their strategic plans for implementation. The CNIDH plans to evaluate the roadmap as a prelude to the 5th cycle of the UPR.

In short, the good practice of the CNIDH lies in the approach of involving many possible actors in the implementation of the UPR recommendations, the regular monitoring of implementation and the contribution of public administration focal points, NGOs and partners.

9. Canada (Canadian Human Rights Commission)

The Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) has participated in and contributed to all of Canada's reviews under the UPR process.

<u>Advocacy and awareness raising</u>

The CHRC raises awareness about the UPR – at its various stages – with civil society organizations and with provincial and territorial human rights commissions in Canada, through regular engagements and through social media. It urges the Government to enhance its engagement with both groups and ensure that the recommendations made during the UPR are given due consideration and acted upon in a timely, transparent, participatory and progressive manner.

In addition, recognizing that recommendations from the UPR can result in meaningful changes and often generate public attention, the CHRC uses these recommendations in its advocacy and often refers to these recommendations in both domestic and international reports.

The CHRC has also appeared before a Parliamentary Committee in relation to their study on the implementation of Canada's UPR, where it spoke to the advocacy issues and recommendations that it raised during Canada's most recent UPR, and highlighted its support for improvements to the process for implementation of Canada's international human rights obligations.

Preparation of written submission

The CHRC regularly prepares a report to the United Nations Human Rights Council on the occasion of Canada's UPR. It takes a focused approach when preparing these reports by choosing a topic that is of concern to various stakeholder constituencies, is connected to various thematic priorities, and allows it to put in a clear ask/recommendation to the government so that it may measure whether it has or hasn't been achieved.

For example, during Canada's last UPR, the CHRC focused on a singular cross-cutting issue of long-standing concern: people deprived of their liberty. In addition, the CHRC provided a specific and clear recommendation in relation to this issue that could be easily measured: that Canada ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

The CHRC raises awareness of its UPR submission, and the issues and recommendations contained within its submission, in a variety of ways, including through events and engagements, on social media and in other reports. For instance, its most recent UPR submission was referenced in a national news article and was also referenced in the CHRC's Annual Report.

In addition, during Canada's most recent UPR, the CHRC provided a subsequent submission to the Department of Canadian Heritage relating to Canada's response to the recommendations made during the 4th cycle of the UPR. Through this submission, it was able to provide its views on which recommendations should be prioritized and accepted, and what Canada can do to advance their implementation.

Participation in all stages

The CHRC participated extensively in the 4th UPR of Canada. In addition to providing a written submission to the process, the CHRC also participated in the UPR Pre-session, which provides a forum for collaboration and information sharing among States and CSOs. This allowed the CHRC to share key issues and recommendations contained in its report in advance of the UPR session, including by participating in a pre-sessional briefing for Member States organized by UPR-Info in Geneva. This participation included developing a "fact sheet" or handout with the CHRC's key issues and recommendations for delegations to use as a practical tool.

In addition to observing the review itself, the CHRC also provided a statement to the Human Rights Council during the adoption of the outcomes of Canada's 4th UPR, where it thanked Member States for taking up its recommendations during the review, and offered its support and collaboration on these important issues going forward.

Overall, practices that the CHRC has found effective during various stages of the UPR process include:

- Using the database created by UPR-Info to review a State's previous recommendations and responses during its last/most recent UPR, as this helps to determine possible developments since the previous review as well as long-standing issues that may require attention;
- Being strategic in written submissions and advocacy efforts to ensure focused attention on important human right issues of concern, and providing concrete recommendations that can be easily measured; and
- Engaging with civil society at various stages – including during the UPR Pre-session – to coordinate areas of focus and ensure that all key areas are covered.

10. Chile (Instituto Nacional de Derechos Humanos)

Within the framework of the 3rd and 4th UPR cycles, the Instituto Nacional de Derechos Humanos (INDH), in a collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Chile (FES) and the Regional Office for South America of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), implemented an institutional methodology aimed at strengthening the meaningful participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) in the preparation and presentation of complementary reports before international human rights mechanisms. The methodology included an articulated system of training, technical support, production of inputs and subsequent follow-up on the submission of CSO reports.

The methodology was designed as a common technical framework that would allow information to be ordered based on previous issues and improve the formal quality of contributions, fully safeguarding the autonomy, plurality and diversity of approaches typical of civil society. In this sense, the INDH-FES-OHCHR collaboration acted as a methodological facilitator and guarantor of standards, not as a political guide of the contents.

The design considered a previous diagnosis of gaps in participation and knowledge of the UPR mechanism in different regions of the country, as well as the need to broaden the base of organizations that actively participate in international processes.

Priority was given to an open call, without barriers to entry, disseminated through the INDH Registry of Organizations and institutional networks, guaranteeing thematic and territorial plurality. The regional teams of the INDH were key to strengthening the call and accompaniment.

For the 4th UPR cycle, 13 activities with CSOs from all over the country were carried out in 2023 (3 informative talks and 10 workshops). A total of 239 persons from 95 civil society organizations participated. For comparison, in the 3rd cycle, 7 activities were carried out in 6 regions of the country, with the participation of a total of 126 persons from 65 civil society organizations. There was thus a significant increase in territorial coverage and participation for the 4th cycle.

The activities included a conceptual training on the UPR, review of previous recommendations, explanation of the format of alternative reports and practical drafting exercises aimed at

transforming territorial problems into specific, measurable recommendations aligned with international standards.

The methodology did not end with the face-to-face activities. Subsequent technical accompaniment, sending of support materials, review of drafts when requested, and guidance on deadlines and official formats were contemplated.

A central component of the methodology was to work from the recommendations and previous issues received by the State. Organizations were encouraged to structure their contributions in terms of follow-up, identifying progress, setbacks, and implementation gaps. This allowed the reports to be not merely descriptive, but oriented towards the formulation of concrete and technically substantiated recommendations.

The impact of good practice can be seen on three levels. First, in the expansion and decentralization of participation, reaching 10 regions and almost 100 organizations. Second, in the strengthening of technical capacities for the preparation of complementary reports aligned with international standards. Third, in the consolidation of thematic articulation networks that transcended the specific UPR process and that are replicated today in other reviews before different treaty bodies.

11. Colombia (Defensoría del Pueblo)

The Defensoría del Pueblo uses the UPR as the mechanism through which it presents contributions through reports in which it contributes to the diagnosis of the human rights situation in the country, highlighting progress, evaluating the implementation of recommendations and suggesting new recommendations.

It presented its contribution as an NHRI for inclusion in the Summary of Stakeholder information for the review of Colombia at the 44th UPR WG session in November 2023. In it, through the compilation and diagnosis of human rights carried out by each of the delegated ombudsmen's offices, the Defensoría del Pueblo presented contributions on priority issues. Based on the principles of independence and integrity, it listened to the voices of those who are in a situation of vulnerability and acted as a bridge that allowed it to urge the Colombian State to redouble actions that guarantee fundamental freedoms.

This process is carried out closely with its Regional Ombudsmen's Offices throughout the country, which have first-hand information on situations of human rights violations and the implementation of actions in the most remote territories of the country.

The Ombudsman's Office also collaborates with government entities at the national and regional levels to ensure the protection of human rights. This collaboration includes coordination with ministries, governors, mayors' offices and other public entities to solve problems related to human rights violations, attention to vulnerable populations, among others. In carrying out the human rights monitoring exercise, it requests the respective information from the competent entities and authorities in order to issue reports and recommendations on situations that affect human rights and thus guide their actions.

12. Costa Rica (Defensoría de los Habitantes)

The Defensoría de los Habitantes (DH) developed a standardized methodology for the 4th UPR cycle for the systematization and preparation of its submission. This involved the formation of a multidisciplinary working group with representation from the different Directorates of the Ombudsman's Office, the designation of an institutional coordination in charge of the Office of the Ombudsman, and the definition of a structured schedule for the collection of data by thematic area, and the review, layout and submission of the final report to OHCHR. The process responded to Strategic Orientation No. 2 of the 2023-2027 Management Plan, relating to strengthening the national and international advocacy of the DH as NHRI.

Within the framework of the UPR process, the Office of the Ombudsman took a proactive role in promoting the participation of civil society, recognizing that one of the most significant contributions that an NHRI can make is to ensure that the voices of local and national actors are effectively reflected in international human rights mechanisms.

To this end, the DH developed a process of awareness and technical training aimed at civil society organizations, with special emphasis on including actors who had historically been left out of this type of space; thus expanding the scope and representativeness of the process. In order to promote their active participation and encourage the presentation of their own reports to the United Nations, the Office of the Ombudsman promoted various convening and training meetings in partnership with OHCHR.

As a result of these actions, the participating organizations received clear guidance on the operation of the mechanism, its scope and the concrete possibilities of advocacy through the submission of written reports. Throughout the process, the Ombudsman's Office underlined its role as a facilitator and articulator, not replacing the independent voice of civil society, but enabling the conditions for it to be fully exercised. These practices contributed to the fact that the perspective of Costa Rican civil society was effectively reflected in the United Nations summary of stakeholders.

13. Côte d'Ivoire (Conseil national des droits de l'Homme)

In order to contribute effectively to the follow-up of the recommendations, the Conseil national des droits de l'Homme (CNDH) has contributed to an organization of work based on an inclusive approach, including through:

- establishing a permanent framework for working with civil society stakeholders (the UPR Committee), which brings together some thirty NGOs
- spurring the creation of an Ivorian network of parliamentarians for human rights, which participated in Côte d'Ivoire's third UPR in March 2024;
- organizing orientation sessions on the UPR to help parliamentarians and senators identify their role in the UPR and strengthen their capacities in order to fully play their role in the implementation and monitoring of the implementation of recommendations, more specifically those that involve legislative reform;
- regular participation in the work of the Interministerial Committee for the Monitoring of Côte d'Ivoire's International Commitments in the Field of Human Rights and interacting

dynamically with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, which has the lead on the issue of UPR within the government

- organization of a pre-session in Abidjan with the accredited diplomatic corps and other institutional actors. The meeting was an excellent advocacy framework for the follow-up of the recommendations, and participation in the pre-sessions organized by UPR Info, in Geneva, at the Palais des Nations.

As part of the awareness-raising and advocacy for the 3rd and 4th cycles, advocacy sheets containing the issues dealt with in the CNDH's alternative report were prepared, distributed and/or made available in the halls of the Palais des Nations, in order to insist on relevant themes of the human rights situation in Côte d'Ivoire. In addition, the CNDH has organized, with the first stakeholders, direct meetings with diplomatic representations in Geneva.

As part of the preparation of the 4th cycle but also for the follow-up of the recommendations of the 3rd cycle, the CNDH organized public awareness-raising sessions in several regions of the country, including Daloa, Abengourou, Bouaké, Duekoué, etc. These sessions made it possible to raise awareness among the population on the themes but also to collect from them the priority issues to be addressed in the CNDH report.

The CNDH regularly participates in the drafting of the state report (provision of information, provision of resource persons, participation in debates). This participation is a good opportunity to influence the Government's decisions.

Since the second cycle, the CNDH has been producing and submitting an alternative report to the UN Human Rights Council in the framework of the UPR. The practice is an excellent channel for monitoring the general human rights situation in general, but also a good tool for monitoring the implementation of recommendations.

The CNDH established a formal advocacy and awareness-raising framework with the diplomatic corps accredited in Côte d'Ivoire, which was an excellent framework for advocacy and awareness-raising, meeting every three months.

The CNDH engaged in advocacy in the prelude to the adoption of the recommendations of the 3rd cycle. Between the review and the adoption of the recommendations, 20 recommendations had been postponed for consultation in Abidjan. The CNDH actively advocated through targeted meetings of certain diplomatic representations or organizations, advocacy within the Briefing of the Diplomatic Corps for the appropriation of the recommendations, and advocacy with the Secretary of State for Human Rights, supported by a technical note to the Minister of Justice to explain the interest for Côte d'Ivoire to accept a number of recommendations noted in Geneva. Due to the advocacy carried out by the CNDH and other stakeholders, Côte d'Ivoire accepted 9 recommendations that it had initially noted, bringing the number of accepted recommendations to a total of 222.

14. Democratic Republic of the Congo (Commission nationale des droits de l'homme)

On the implementation of UPR recommendations, the Commission nationale des droits de l'homme (CNDH):

- organized a workshop with civil society actors to thematically cluster UPR recommendations in order to facilitate their implementation (Ref.: CNDH Annual Report 2021/2022 chapter on international commitments).
- brought together state actors (Inter-Ministerial Committee) in 2016 for the development of an integrated plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the UPR and the United Nations treaty bodies;
- actively advocated for the adoption of a draft law on access to information in accordance with recommendation 119.95 adopted during the third cycle of the UPR, which recommended that the DRC adopt two laws on access to information and freedom of the press;
- played a role in the implementation of Recommendation 119.260 adopted in the third cycle of the UPR concerning the further development of a draft law to protect the rights of indigenous peoples;
- organized a meeting with civil society to link the UPR recommendations to the corresponding SDGs

Regarding awareness raising and promotion at all stages, the CNDH:
- organized an awareness-raising meeting for the development of a joint advocacy tool with civil society actors for the acceptance of the UPR recommendations.
- made a plea to Parliament as part of the follow-up to the implementation of UPR recommendations, with the support of the Carter Center. To this end, it has interacted with the Human Rights Committee of the National Assembly and at the level of the Senate.

During the 4th UPR cycle, the CNDH was involved in the work of the Inter-Institutional Committee to adopt the Government's UPR report. It also made its own submission in 2024 for the Summary of Stakeholder information.

The CNDH was present during the review of the DRC and at the session to adopt the recommendations and participated in the adoption of the UPR outcome by the plenary of the Human Rights Council.

15. Denmark (Danish Institute for Human Rights)

As part of Denmark’s national consultation process and in preparation for the fourth UPR in 2026, the Institute piloted a new approach to strengthen public participation in the UPR process in Denmark.

A public digital citizen-centred survey was conducted to invite individuals to share their perceptions and experiences of how human rights are protected in practice in Denmark. The initiative was designed as a participatory supplement to traditional public meetings and public consultation of the draft national report conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Denmark, with the aim of broadening engagement and lowering barriers to participation.

A survey was disseminated through social media and civil society organisations, enabling participation from individuals and groups who do not typically engage in the more formal consultation mechanisms. Rather than seeking statistical representativeness, the initiative prioritised inclusive participation among people with an interest in or experience of human

rights issues. The responses therefore provide qualitative insights into participants' perceptions and lived experiences, rather than a representative account of the population.

The consultation was conducted in September 2025. The survey combined closed-ended questions addressing themes commonly raised by national and international human rights actors with open-ended questions that allowed participants to share their own experiences. In total, 5,998 individuals contributed to the public consultation.

The digital public consultation was submitted as part of the Institutes' stakeholder reporting for the UPR. The results from the digital public consultation highlight where the respondents expressed concerns and where they perceived human rights protection to be challenged.

16. Egypt (National Council for Human Rights)

The National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) submitted its third report in 2019 and its fourth report in 2024 for the respective reviews of Egypt. In preparing its reports, the Council adopted an extensive consultative methodology, which included:

- Organizing broad regional meetings with civil society organizations in Cairo, Upper Egypt, and the Nile Delta, ensuring geographical representation and diversity of areas of work.
- Holding consultative meetings with representatives of both chambers of Parliament, specialized national councils, and a number of ministries and national authorities.
- Engaging organizations holding consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

The NCHR played a pivotal role in monitoring and following up on the implementation of UPR recommendations issued to Egypt by preparing independent follow-up reports and providing objective observations based on field monitoring, complaints received, and direct engagement with relevant national authorities.

The Council also worked to strengthen cooperation with the executive and legislative branches to support the integration of relevant recommendations into national policies and plans. The NCHR prepared legislative observations and submitted its recommendations to the competent authorities to support the harmonization of national legislation with international human rights standards. This contributed to amendments of certain legal provisions that further enhance human rights protections.

The Council actively participated in monitoring the implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy (2021–2026) as a comprehensive framework for implementing a significant number of UPR recommendations. The Council also contributed views and observations aimed at aligning the Strategy's executive action plans with priority UPR recommendations.

The NCHR coordinated with national mechanisms concerned with the rights of women, children, and persons with disabilities, contributing to the implementation of sectoral recommendations issued under the UPR.

The Council adopted a systematic analysis of its complaints mechanism, updated databases, and conducted regular field visits. The linkage between individual complaints, field monitoring,

and international recommendations represents a best practice that strengthens evidence-based follow-up.

17. El Salvador (Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos)

The Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (PDDH) held technical dialogues and facilitated multisectoral dialogues for the validation and contrast of technical information. Through the preparation of autonomous institutional reports, the institution complemented the national UPR report and civil society reports with shared technical diagnoses.

The PDDH has institutionalized thematic and/or technical roundtables as democratic spaces, for advocating on public policies, for high-level dialogue and coordination with various sectors of civil society, addressing critical areas. This has allowed it to know closely the needs and urgent problems at the local level and allowed its submissions for the UPR to be validated directly by the actors involved.

Through its departmental delegations, the PDDH deploys a permanent monitoring capacity that allows it to capture direct inputs on the reality of human rights in local contexts. This approach facilitates the documentation of specific impacts on rural communities, peripherals and vulnerable groups, ensuring that the verification of UPR recommendations transcends the central administrative level. By contrasting the progress and obstacles on the ground, especially on issues of indigenous peoples, older adults and access to services, the PDDH transforms international monitoring into an evaluation process with territorial roots and real effectiveness.

Through the implementation of care actions in the localities, the PDDH brings its work closer to the most vulnerable communities and populations. It creates alliances and obtains information from direct sources, representing cases that are later systematized and whose data are incorporated into various situational and special reports, which in turn are inputs for the different stages of the UPR cycle.

18. Estonia (Chancellor of Justice)

The Chancellor of Justice submitted a report to the UPR during the 3rd and 4th cycles. Whilst preparing the latest report, the Office of the Chancellor of Justice also consulted CSOs and human rights defenders, among others, through the Advisory Committee on Human Rights (https://www.oiguskantsler.ee/en/areas-activity/national-human-rights-institution/advisory-committee-human-rights), convened by the Chancellor. One aim was to gather wider input on what human rights issues could be covered in the Chancellor's report. It also encouraged more stakeholders to submit their own reports to the UPR and provided them with an opportunity to exchange information on reporting focuses.

During the latest cycle, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent to the Chancellor and other stakeholders the draft of the national report and held a consultative meeting. The Chancellor's office commented on only those sections in the draft report that concerned the Chancellor. Some but not all suggestions made by the Chancellor's office are reflected in the final version of the report.

A representative of the Chancellor of Justice, alongside two CSO representatives, participated in the UPR pre-session organised by UPR Info. The Chancellor's statement referred to recommendations made during the previous cycle, noted developments on their implementation, and proposed further recommendations. Before the pre-session, the Chancellor's office initiated coordination with other participating stakeholders, which helped to cover as many issues as possible, avoid repetitions, but still note the re-occurring issues in different reports.

19. Ethiopia (Ethiopian Human Rights Commission)

The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) conducted several training workshops and consultations on the implementation of the UPR recommendations, often collaborating with the OHCHR, the Ministry of Justice, and civil society:

- Consultative Workshop on Implementing the 4th Cycle UPR Recommendations on Internal Displacement and Migration Issues in Ethiopia

  EHRC in collaboration with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), organised a consultation meeting on 23 December 2025 to advocate for an effective implementation of the 4th Cycle UPR recommendations, with a particular focus on the protection of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and migrants. Participants included United Nations (UN) agencies, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and associations working on the rights of IDPs and migrants. The meeting introduced participants to the recommendations as well as the government's UPR implementation roadmap. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to ensure the effective implementation of UPR recommendations on the rights of IDPs and migrants.

- Applying HRBA for Effective Implementation of Recommendations from the UPR and other human rights mechanisms

  EHRC in collaboration with OHCHR and the Ministry of Justice, held a three-day workshop from 25–27 November 2025, to strengthen the application of a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) in implementing recommendations from the 4th UPR cycle and other mechanisms. The workshop brought together representatives from key ministries, judiciary, federal police, and government agencies. Sessions covered tools for monitoring human rights outcomes, links to the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the African Union's Agenda 2063, and practical exercises such as situation, causality, role-pattern, and capacity gap analyses. Participants gained skills to apply HRBA principles of universality, indivisibility, equality and non-discrimination, participation, and accountability in designing and executing programs aligned with human rights commitments.

- Technical and advisory support to the Ministry of Justice in the development of the Implementation Roadmap and the Implementation Matrix

EHRC provided technical and advisory support to the Ministry of Justice in the development of the Implementation Roadmap and the Implementation Matrix for the 4th UPR Cycle Recommendations. The Roadmap was officially launched on 21 November 2025, with the participation of senior government officials, CSOs, and representatives of 3 international organisations. The roadmap will serve as a guiding document to foster coordination among relevant institutions to implement the recommendations effectively.

- Sensitisation workshop of parliamentarians

  In June and July 2025, EHRC organised sensitisation workshops for members of parliament, which included dedicated sessions on the recommendations of the 4th cycle UPR.

- Technical Meeting with the Ministry of Justice

  EHRC held a technical meeting with the Ministry of Justice on 27 March 2025, to discuss the implementation phase of the 4th cycle UPR recommendations to Ethiopia, with a special focus on recommendations which were noted. EHRC also took the opportunity to offer its technical support as required.

- Sensitisation Meeting on the Fourth Cycle UPR Recommendations

  From 28-29 January 2025, EHRC organized a sensitization meeting on the recommendations of the 4th cycle UPR with state actors, civil society, research institutions and academia, media, and international organisations.

- Roundtable Discussion: Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to Promote the Rights of People on the Move in Ethiopia

  EHRC organised a roundtable discussion on 28 March 2024 to sensitise stakeholders working on the rights of people on the move, regarding the importance of submitting alternative reports ahead of Ethiopia's 4th Cycle UPR consideration and to use the process to advance the rights of people on the move, including refugees, IDPs, and migrants. Participants included the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the International Organisation of Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and representatives from international organisations such as Save the Children.

  Participants emphasized that although the UPR is primarily a State-to-State mechanism, it provides an important opportunity for NHRIs, UN agencies, and CSOs to prepare parallel submissions, raise concerns, and evaluate the government's human rights performance based on a wide range of legal standards such as ratified treaties, voluntary pledges, and international humanitarian law. EHRC briefed the meeting on the preparation of its own NHRI submission for the 4th Cycle UPR, rooted in insights from the previous cycle. Participants stressed the

importance of ongoing advocacy and follow-up to ensure implementation of UPR recommendations between review cycles.

- Consultative Meeting on Monitoring and Implementing the Recommendations of UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies and the UPR

  From 4 – 6 July 2022, EHRC organized a Consultative Meeting on Monitoring and Implementing the Recommendations of UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies and the UPR. The Meeting brought together over 70 participants from various State and non-State entities, including representatives of the House of Peoples' Representatives, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, Ministry of Planning and Development, civil society organisations, OHCHR, and other stakeholders. The objective of the Consultative Meeting was to enhance understanding about the existing national framework for reporting, follow up and implementation; to build capacity on monitoring and implementing the recommendations of treaty bodies and the UPR; and to strengthen collaboration and coordination among stakeholders to improve their implementation and monitoring role.

- National Recommendation Tracking Database (NRTD)

  EHRC is among the focal institutions granted access to update the National Recommendation Tracking Database (NRTD), which is coordinated by the Ministry of Justice to monitor the status of implementation of recommendations from various human rights mechanisms, including the UPR.

  With support from OHCHR, EHRC is also in the process of developing its own NRTD to monitor EHRC recommendations as well as recommendations from various African Union and UN human rights mechanisms, including the UPR.

EHRC has conducted several advocacy and awareness-raising activities during the 3rd and 4th UPR cycles:

- 10 series radio program on the 3rd cycle UPR recommendations to Ethiopia

  EHRC, in partnership with LWF, successfully produced and broadcast a series of 10 radio programs on the UPR with a focus on thematic human rights issue in each episode. Designed to raise public awareness, foster dialogue, and deepen community understanding of the UPR process and human rights principles, these programs were delivered in accessible formats that reached diverse audiences across Ethiopia.

- Workshop on the Role of Civil Society Organizations in the Fourth Cycle of Universal Periodic Review of Ethiopia

  EHRC, in collaboration with OHCHR-EARO and the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) organized a capacity building workshop on 22 November 2023 for

CSOs on how to engage in the UPR process, as Ethiopia was scheduled for review (4th cycle) during the 47th session of the UPR Working Group in November 2024. The workshop brought together participants from CSOs, academia and experts from OHCHR-EARO, DIHR and EHRC. During the workshop, CSOs' role in the UPR process was explained to participants along with a simulation exercise whereby CSOs prepared thematic submissions based on the 3rd cycle of the UPR recommendations to Ethiopia.

- Follow-up Meeting on the Role of CSOs in Promoting and Monitoring Implementation of the UPR Recommendations

  On 2 June 2022, EHRC organized a Follow-up Meeting on the Role of CSOs in Promoting and Monitoring Implementation of the UPR Recommendations. The Meeting highlighted the opportunities available to CSOs to engage with the UN human rights treaty bodies, the Special Procedures, and the UPR. Best practices from around the world including the formation of CSOs coalitions and development of implementation matrixes were also shared. It was recommended that Ethiopian CSOs should utilize existing UPR databases and work closely with institutions that can provide support such as the EHRC, OHCHR, and the National Human Rights Action Plan Secretariat. The Meeting devised a draft plan for CSOs to report on the implementation of UPR recommendations with deliverables and timelines.

- Training workshop for CSOs on the implementation of recommendations

  From 27 – 28 October 2021, EHRC and OHCHR organized a training for CSOs on monitoring implementation of the UPR recommendations and UN treaty body concluding observations.

- Translation of UPR Recommendations into Local Languages:

  To facilitate understanding and accessibility at the domestic level, EHRC thematically clustered, translated, published, and disseminated the recommendations of the 3rd cycle UPR addressed to Ethiopia. Similarly, the clustering, translation, and publication of the 4th Cycle UPR recommendations is underway.

EHRC was also involved with regard to Government-held consultations prior to the review

- Written input submitted by EHRC to the Ministry of Justice

  Following a request by the Ministry of Justice for input from EHRC on the status of implementation of the 3rd cycle UPR recommendations, EHRC submitted its written input compiling information gathered through its monitoring and investigation work as gathered from its regional offices and thematic departments.

- Consultation Meeting on Ethiopia's Draft Report for the 4th Universal Periodic Review

  EHRC participated in a consultative forum jointly organized by the Ministry of Justice and OHCHR. The forum reviewed Ethiopia's three-year performance report on the recommendations supported during the 3rd cycle of the United Nations UPR. In addition, EHRC delivered a presentation highlighting the role of NHRIs in the UPR process.

  Additionally, EHRC in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, held a stakeholders consultation meeting on Ethiopia's draft national report on the 4th cycle UPR on 11 July 2024. The consultation brought together various federal and regional institutions, CSOs and other stakeholders. The consultation meeting aimed to ensure the inclusion of the latest information in the report, assess Ethiopia's compliance with its obligations under international human rights treaties, incorporate omitted human rights issues, and to ensure that the report accurately reflects the human rights situation in Ethiopia.

  Presentations were made on the draft national report, the human rights treaties ratified by Ethiopia, and the recommendations from the 3rd UPR cycle. Following the presentations, the participants were divided into thematic groups and provided their comments and input on the draft report.

- State Reporting Workshop on Ethiopia's 4th Cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

  EHRC, OHCHR-EARO, and the Ministry of Justice organized a workshop for the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF) and the Inter-Ministerial Committee from 19 – 22 February 2024. The workshop brought together participants from various state institutions, including representatives of the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Planning and Development, Ministry of Defence, National Disaster Risk Management Commission and Refugees and Returnees Service. The workshop aimed to ensure the timely and high-quality submission of Ethiopia's report on the UPR. A significant outcome of the workshop was the development of a roadmap for drafting the report including identification of the information needed, as well as assignment of responsibilities and timelines.

EHRC input and engagement in the UPR

- Written submissions for the Summary of Stakeholder Information

  On 8 April 2024, EHRC submitted its NHRI Stakeholder Submission for the 4th UPR cycle. The drafting process was coordinated by the International and Regional Engagement Unit under the Office of the Chief Commissioner. This unit worked closely with the Commission's thematic departments, drawing on their monitoring observations and stakeholder inputs to ensure a comprehensive submission. The

submission was structured around the mandate of the NHRI and organizes UPR recommendations under thematic rights areas. For each theme, EHRC provides its observations, highlights concerns, and proposes recommendations.

- Participation in the adoption

  EHRC attended the 47th Working Group Session where Ethiopia presented its 4th Cycle UPR Report on 12 November 2024 to the Human Rights Council. EHRC also made a video submission to the 58th Human Rights Council Session where the recommendations on Ethiopia's report was adopted.

20. The Gambia (National Human Rights Commission)

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) engagement during the 3rd Cycle:

- During the State review, the NHRC, through the UNDP-OHCHR Transitional Justice, convened for the first time a live streaming of the session, which enabled Government officials and representatives of Civil Society, the media and child-led organisations to follow the constructive dialogue between the State representatives and the Working Group. It also provided some of the participants with an opportunity to understand the human rights in the country and recommendations made to the State to enhance the protection and enjoyment of human rights.
- Following the review, with the absence of an NMIRF, the Commission constituted a Multi-Stakeholder Committee, comprised of Government and non-Government institutions, to monitor the implementation of the issued recommendations. Through the Committee, members provided regular updates on how the State, through their institutions, was implementing the recommendations and the challenges encountered. This aided the preparation and timely submission of a mid-term report to the Working Group on the implementation of the recommendations. The mid-term report also formed a basis to support the preparation of reports in preparation for the 4th cycle.
- The Committee conducted a nationwide campaign to popularise the recommendations. Interactive sessions, conducted in the local languages and also attended by duty bearers, were held in all the major towns of the country during which the human rights situation of the country, the UPR recommendations made to the State and the commitments and pledges of the Government were amply explained to audiences. To strengthen this outreach, radio programmes were also held on community radios, thereby ensuring a greater reach in the information dissemination.
- To ensure effective and strategic implementation of the recommendations, the Government developed a National Human Rights Strategy. The NHRC actively participated in the development of this Strategy.

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) engagement during the 4th Cycle:

- The Commission participated in the preparation of the National Report and provided the necessary technical support to the Ministry of Justice that coordinated its development. Through its participation, the Commission ensured the Report adequately reflected the

recommendations that were implemented and suggested issues the State should consider including in its report.

- The Commission constituted a multi-sectoral committee, comprising representatives of the Government and CSOs, including the Gambia Federation of the Disabled, to support the preparation of its Stakeholder Report. The Committee enabled the Commission to gain easy access to information required for the preparation of its report. This participatory inclusion ensured transparency in the preparation of the Report and easy accessibility of the final validated report by all the partners.
- To enhance the involvement of the Commission in the UPR process, DCAF in Geneva collaborated with the Commission to facilitate the participation of the NHRC in the Pre-session dialogue. The technical support from DCAF Geneva also enabled the Commission to make clear linkages between Security Sector Reform and the UPR. This provided the Commission the opportunity to engage the Working Group and representatives of UN member States to adopt its recommendations as well as issue them to the State during the review.
- The Commission, represented by three Commissioners and four senior staff members, attended the review dialogue in Geneva, which enhanced its understanding and involvement in the process. The involvement also showed the engagement of multiple stakeholders in the review process, demonstrating the review engaged a cross-sector of the public and was not only a state process.

21. Georgia (Public Defender's Office)

Strategic Written Submissions and thematic decentralization

For its submissions to the Summary of Stakeholder Information for the 4th cycle, the Public Defender's Office (PDO) utilized a decentralized drafting process involving various units of the Office. This ensured that the report was a data-driven analysis of systemic gaps.

Mid-term Reporting

During the 3rd cycle, the PDO actively participated in mid-term reporting workshops to cluster and analyse recommendations from previous cycles, ensuring consistent data collection and analysis. The PDO adopted a "traffic light" system in its internal monitoring, which was then reflected in its UPR submissions to clearly indicate which previous recommendations remained unaddressed.

Pre-session Engagement

During the 3rd cycle, the PDO proactively contributed to the briefings for the diplomatic community in Tbilisi and Geneva. By providing "fact sheets" on critical issues, it empowered Recommending States to draft specific, measurable, and achievable (SMART) recommendations. Its engagement was guided by a five-step process in coordination with UPR Info, culminating in specialized workshops on mid-term reporting and strategy development.

On 25 November 2020, the PDO, UPR-info and Open Society Georgia Foundation held an online pre-session hearing, during which representatives of non-governmental organizations

and the Public Defender updated the diplomatic corps accredited in Georgia of the human rights situation in the country. In addition, representatives of the diplomatic corps heard specific recommendations that their respective countries were encouraged to make to Georgia within the framework of the UPR on 26 January 2021, with the aim of improving the protection of human rights in Georgia.

Implementation and Cooperation with State Branches - Parliamentary Oversight

A breakthrough was the formalization of cooperation of the PDO with the Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee of the Parliament of Georgia under Article 173 of the Rules of Procedure. This article established a unique, institutionalized procedure for UPR engagement and oversight. During the 3rd UPR of Georgia, 39 recommendations required explicit legislative action, including guaranteeing funding for the PDO.

22. Ghana (Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice)

Submission of Independent Parallel (Alternative) Reports

The Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) prepared and submitted independent alternative reports to complement the State's national reports. These submissions were structured around civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, group rights, and cross-cutting governance concerns. The reports were grounded in verified complaints data, prison inspections, anti-corruption investigations, field monitoring, and trends reflected in CHRAJ's Annual Reports. This practice strengthened the credibility and balance of Ghana's UPR process by ensuring independent oversight and evidence-based review cycle.

Strategic Global, Regional and Development Partner Collaboration

CHRAJ deepened engagement with international and regional partners to strengthen technical capacity in UPR reporting and follow-up. The Commission participated in pre-UPR sessions, training and supported by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), on effective UPR reporting. The Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Ghana and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) facilitated institutional participation in regional engagements and the UPR session and supported learning exchanges on best practices. Additional collaboration with OXFAM, ActionAid, UNICEF and other partners strengthened thematic reporting, including business and human rights.

Through these partnerships, CHRAJ advanced the development of a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, aligning UPR commitments with private-sector accountability. These collaborations enhanced technical rigor in reporting, exposed staff to comparative NHRI practices, and strengthened Ghana's alignment with international human rights standards. They improved institutional preparedness for peer review and reinforced multi-stakeholder approaches to governance reform.

Engagement within Ghana's National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-Up (NMIRF)

CHRAJ actively participated in Ghana's National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-Up (NMIRF), coordinated by the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice. Within this framework, the Commission provided technical input, independent assessments, and data-driven analysis derived from its mandate areas.

Structured engagements were held with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Ghana Police Service, Ghana Prisons Service, and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, among others. CHRAJ clarified implementation responsibilities, offered human rights guidance, and supported tracking of UPR recommendations.

CHRAJ by preserving its independence while contributing technical expertise, strengthened institutional accountability and ensured that UPR follow-up became integrated into mainstream governance processes.

Establishment of an Inter-Departmental UPR Working Group

A major institutional innovation was the creation of a CHRAJ Inter-Departmental UPR Working Group composed of senior officers from Human Rights, Anti-Corruption, Administrative Justice, Legal Services, Research, Public Education, Complaints, International Cooperation, and Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PPME) Units. This structure institutionalised shared responsibility for UPR implementation, ensuring that recommendation tracking, data validation, and stakeholder engagement were embedded across departments. The Working Group met periodically to review accepted recommendations, assess implementation gaps, and prepare consolidated submissions. Also, CHRAJ integrated UPR follow-up into its Annual Work Plans and monitoring routine operations.

Structured National Consultations and Inter-Agency Dialogue

Prior to each review cycle, CHRAJ participated in national consultations convened by the Government. The Commission contributed evidence from investigative trends and thematic analyses, particularly in areas of detention management, access to remedies, child protection, and anti-corruption safeguards. Engagements preserved institutional independence while reinforcing collaborative governance consistent with the Paris Principles. The Structured consultations improved the accuracy of national reports and ensured that systemic challenges identified through complaints data informed policy dialogue. This enhanced transparency and strengthened national ownership of UPR outcomes.

Engagement with Parliament

CHRAJ with support from UNFPA organised a high-level dialogue with the Human Rights Committee of Parliament on strengthening governance, rule of law and accountability to support the integration of human rights into legislations and Parliamentary operations and to contribute to the fulfilment of Ghana's commitments on human rights, including the Universal Periodic Review.

Structured Collaboration with Non-State Actors

CHRAJ, in collaboration with Amnesty International, hosted the Human Rights Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Forum, a coalition of organisations committed to advancing human rights and social justice in Ghana. Through this institutionalised platform supported by a designated Desk Officer, the Commission promotes structured networking, knowledge sharing, capacity building, and coordinated engagement in the UPR process, thereby strengthening information exchange and enhancing the inclusiveness and credibility of Ghana's UPR reporting and follow-up

Engagement with Civil Society Organisations (CSO)

CHRAJ participated in workshop organised by POS Foundation, the convener of UN UPR-CSOs platform for the validation and submission of CSO shadow reports for the 4th cycle. The workshop reviewed, finalised and validated reports developed by CSOs operating under various human rights thematic areas for submission to the UN HRC in 2022. Also, in 2025, CHRAJ participated the UN UPR CSOs midterm review workshop to review progress on Ghana's 4th cycle UPR recommendations, strengthen accountability, and expose participants to the UN UPR midterm reporting systems, ultimately leading to the drafting of Ghana's Civil Society Midterm Report.

Capacity Building and Public Awareness Mainstreaming

CHRAJ organised targeted internal training for members of its UPR Committee and selected regional and district officers to improve technical understanding of reporting standards and to improve the quality and consistency of institutional submissions.

UPR recommendations were further mainstreamed into nationwide civic education programmes across all sixteen regions through community engagements, radio discussions, and stakeholder forums.

CHRAJ also participated in the adoption of Ghana's UPR outcomes at the Human Rights Council in Geneva, reinforcing post-review advocacy.

This nationwide public education enhanced grassroots awareness of Ghana's international human rights commitments and raised key human right issues of concern within the regions and the districts. This broadened public participation in governance and strengthened accountability at local levels.

23. Iraq (High Commission for Human Rights)

Follow-up on the Implementation of Universal Periodic Review Recommendations

The Commission has played an active role in following up on the implementation of recommendations issued under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism by monitoring the extent of compliance of governmental entities with human rights–related

recommendations and by providing observations and necessary recommendations to address identified challenges.

Cooperation with the Legislative and Executive Authorities

The Commission has worked to strengthen sustained cooperation and coordination with the Council of Representatives and relevant executive authorities through participation in national committees and by providing technical opinions and advisory input on draft legislation and public policies related to human rights, in alignment with international recommendations issued under the UPR mechanism. In particular, this includes the Draft Personal Data Protection Law, the Draft Anti-Torture Law, and the Draft Law on the Right to Peaceful Assembly and Demonstration.

Cooperation with Civil Society Organizations

The Commission has sought to build effective partnerships with civil society organizations, including Popular Aid Organization and International Rescue Committee, through the organization of meetings and consultative workshops, the exchange of information, and the support of their participation in the UPR process, thereby enhancing the inclusiveness and transparency of the process.

Awareness-Raising at All Stages of the Universal Periodic Review

Through its Dissemination and Awareness Department and divisions at its National Office and governorate offices, the Commission has conducted training sessions and workshops targeting governmental entities, civil society organizations, and media institutions on the UPR mechanism, its stages, and the importance of implementing its recommendations, with a view to strengthening national understanding of the mechanism and its role in improving the human rights situation.

Written Contributions to the Preparation of the Stakeholders' Summary

The Commission submitted written contributions to the OHCHR, including an objective assessment of the human rights situation in Iraq and the level of implementation of previous UPR recommendations. These contributions supported the preparation of the stakeholders' summary, including submissions addressing the rights of indigenous peoples and the Working Group on the gender dimensions of care and support systems.

24. Jordan (National Centre for Human Rights)

The National Centre for Human Rights focused its efforts on supporting the implementation of UPR recommendations, promoting inclusive national participation in the review process, and providing objective and independent information on the human rights situation in Jordan, thereby contributing to the development of national policies and legislation.

Reporting and Technical Contributions

The Centre submitted written contributions to the stakeholders' reports within the UPR framework based on a sound and professional methodology drawing on field monitoring, complaints received by the Centre, analysis of legislation and public policies, and the Centre's periodic reports, as well as shadow reports and recommendations issued by treaty bodies and reports of international organizations. The Centre's submissions focused on priority human rights issues and included practical and implementable recommendations, contributing to the credibility and quality of information provided within the review process and reinforcing the role of national human rights institutions as independent sources of information.

Participation in National Consultations

The Centre actively participated in national consultations preceding the UPR process by providing technical observations and objective assessments regarding the implementation of previous recommendations and the challenges encountered. It also promoted a participatory approach in the preparation of national reports and strengthened coordination among government institutions and civil society organizations. These efforts have reinforced the Centre's position as a key national partner in the UPR process.

Follow-up on the Implementation of UPR Recommendations

The Centre attaches particular importance to the follow-up of UPR recommendations as a practical tool for improving the human rights situation. In this regard, the Centre has:

- Integrated UPR recommendations into its annual and thematic reports;
- Monitored progress in the implementation of recommendations at the legislative and institutional levels;
- Engaged with relevant government authorities to support the implementation of recommendations.

This approach has strengthened the effective use of UPR recommendations and contributed to linking them with national human rights reform efforts.

Advocacy and Awareness-Raising

The Centre has implemented a range of activities aimed at strengthening awareness of the UPR mechanism and the importance of implementing its recommendations. These activities included meetings, workshops, and awareness-raising initiatives targeting government institutions and civil society organizations. These efforts have contributed to strengthening national awareness of the UPR mechanism and its role in advancing the human rights system.

International Engagement

The Centre participated in the various stages of the UPR process, including sessions for the adoption of UPR outcomes, where it delivered statements addressing the human rights situation in Jordan, progress achieved in implementing recommendations, and the challenges encountered. This engagement strengthened the Centre's international presence and

highlighted its role as an independent national institution supporting the implementation of the State's human rights obligations.

25. Kenya (Kenya National Commission on Human Rights)

Following the adoption of the third and fourth cycle UPR outcome documents, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) prepared internal implementation plans that clustered accepted recommendations and linked them to recommendations received from treaty body mechanisms, the Sustainable Development Goals, the KNCHR's Strategic Plan and the responsible Division. This enabled the Commission to effectively monitor, advocate and report on the implementation of the accepted recommendations. The Commission reports on the level of implementation of UPR recommendations in its annual reports, State of Human Rights reports, and other human rights compliance reports.

The KNCHR is a member of the Kenya Stakeholders' Coalition on the Universal Periodic Review which brings together over 200 Civil Society Organizations to advocate for the implementation of UPR recommendations. The KNCHR provides technical support to the Coalition during the preparation of Civil Society reports, and acts as the bridge between Government and the Civil Society Organizations.

The KNCHR has actively engaged the Government prior to and following Kenya's UPR, by raising human rights concerns and advocating for the Government to accept UPR recommendations. Following Kenya's third cycle review in January 2020, and prior to the official adoption of Kenya's third cycle outcome document, the KNCHR advocated for the State to accept recommendations it had noted/not made a decision on. As a result, the Government accepted two additional recommendations.

The KNCHR raised public awareness on the UPR process and accepted recommendations during the third and fourth cycles.

- Following the adoption of Kenya's UPR outcome document, for instance, the KNCHR leveraged on the national consultations held to review Kenya's National Policy and Action Plan on Human Rights. The KNCHR used this platform to disseminate accepted recommendations during consultations with diverse stakeholders across 20 devolved units/counties.
- The Commission also prepared a Frequently Answered Questions document on the UPR tailored for the public. The document is available on the KNCHR website.
- In 2022, the KNCHR regional offices and EACHRights (the convener of the Kenya Stakeholders' Coalition on the UPR) partnered to build capacities on the UPR and the right to education.

During the third cycle UPR, the Commission provided technical support to organizations of persons with disabilities to participate in the UPR process. These organizations had not participated in the UPR process in previous cycles. The Commission built their capacity on the UPR process and supported the preparation of their UPR reports.

The KNCHR disseminated the third and fourth cycle accepted UPR recommendations to key duty bearers including the Parliamentary human rights committees and the Chief Justice. It

further held courtesy calls with individual Members of Parliament to advocate for the implementation of UPR recommendations. A notable impact of this is an engagement with a Member of Parliament on UPR recommendations touching on the abolition of the death penalty. The Member of Parliament introduced amendments to three laws in Kenya which permit the death penalty.

The KNCHR actively advocated for the formulation of recommendations by State Parties through their embassies in Kenya and Geneva. It prepared advocacy charters targeted to recommending States based on their areas of interest and key human rights concerns in Kenya. It engaged States individually and jointly with organizations of the Kenya Stakeholders' Coalition on the UPR during the UPR pre-sessions in Kenya and Geneva.

The KNCHR prepared and submitted its voluntary third cycle UPR mid-term report. The report assessed the level of implementation of accepted third cycle UPR recommendations.

The Commission participated in national consultations towards the preparation of national third cycle and fourth cycle reports and prepared its own third cycle and fourth cycle UPR reports.

26. Liberia (Independent National Commission on Human Rights)

Implementation of UPR Recommendations (Monitoring, Cooperation, Civil Society)

Following the adoption of the recommendations of the third cycle, the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR), as a technical advisor to the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow up (NMRF), developed a mid-term tracking matrix to establish Government's actions on the agreed recommendations. Ministries, agencies and Commissions (MACs) submitted their inputs, which appraised to what extent Government was able to implement recommendations. This process paved the way for reporting on the fourth cycle.

Civil society has been pivotal in the process of implementation and monitoring of the UPR Recommendations. The INCHR organized a mid-term review meeting where CSOs presented their assessment on commitments of Government in the implementation of the recommendation. The consultation also extended to community-based organizations and vulnerable groups.

Impact: The tracking mechanism has helped to consolidate INCHR and MACs follow up on recommendations and has been able to flag out delays in fulfilment of recommendations. In addition, collaboration amongst stakeholders, State and non-state actors has been enhanced through the NMRF which the commission is part of. These synergies have by extension improved the monitoring of the UPR recommendations.

Advocacy and Awareness Raising

On 20 March 2025, a regional consultative meeting was held with Ministries, Agencies, and Commissions (MACs) and civil society actors in Monrovia with OHCHR technical support to gather data on progress and challenges of the implementation of the UPR recommendations.

A radio talk show by Commissioners, through simulcast was streamed simultaneously to multiple community-based radio stations in Maryland, Grand Gedeh, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Nimba, Bong and Bomi Counties. Issues of FGM, early and forced marriage and the death penalty dominated the discussion.

Following the robust consultative process, INCHR technical team and key civil society actors convened on 28 March 2025 at the European Union Embassy Conference Hall in Monrovia to review and prepare the final stakeholders report. The Commission also produced simplified, Liberian user language materials to translate some of the key recommendations to the public.

Impact: This initiative increased public awareness of the UPR process. The input gathered was directly incorporated into our stakeholder report for the fourth cycle, ensuring it reflected the true realities of communities across the country. It also empowered civil society organizations, particularly community-based organisations to engage with the process for the first time.

Government-held Consultations

INCHR played a critical role regarding Government held consultation. With regards to the third and fourth cycles, INCHR provided technical support in the consultations and drafting process of the Government owned report. The essence of the support was to ensure that the reports reflect the reality with regards to progress and constraints in the implementation of previous reports. The Government report referenced INCHR Annual Human Rights Situation reports 2023 and 2024.

INCHR was also invited in the preparation of the Government statement during the review process.

INCHR ensured that the recommendations are incorporated in the ongoing consultation process of the forthcoming National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP). INCHR has also ensured that the National Development Plan, the ARREST Agenda (2024-2028) encapsulates critical recommendations of the UPR.

Impact: The participation in the processes ensured that the State reports and the addendum to the 4th cycle outcome report included a more balanced perspective. For the first time, the report referenced INCHR's findings on prison conditions and children's rights and acknowledged the need for technical assistance in that area. This opened the door for international cooperation.

Written Submissions for the Summary of Stakeholder Information

For its fourth cycle UPR submission, the INCHR adopted a new structure. Each section of its report was aligned with:
1. The specific UPR recommendation from the previous cycle.
2. Relevant Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets.
3. Data and case files from our complaints handling and monitoring work.
4. Concrete recommendations for the fifth cycle.

Impact: This structure made the submission more accessible and a useful tool for advocacy by stakeholders in Liberia. The alignment with the SDGs also helped integrate UPR follow-up into the National Development Plan.

Participation

The third cycle preparation was held with a cross section of CSOs and community-based organizations. Before the review, INCHR met with selected members of the diplomatic community to appraise them of the current human rights situation in the country for them to engage Government representatives in Geneva for the third cycle review. Key questions and recommendations were submitted to members of the diplomatic community.

For the fourth cycle, through a robust consultative process, INCHR technical team and key civil society actors convened on 28 March 2025 at the European Union Embassy Conference Hall in Monrovia to review and prepare the final report.

On 4 February 2026 the Commission provided technical advice at an inclusive national review workshop held to take position on the 245 recommendations received by Liberia during the 4th cycle review, leading to 230 of the recommendations being supported and 15 noted and an addendum to the UPR outcome report submitted to the Human Rights Council for final adoption.

Impact: This proactive presence and support of OHCHR and the diplomatic community strengthened INCHR capacity to engage with the UPR process. It ensured that the Government's response was well-considered and that the NHRI's priorities regarding specific recommendations were clearly communicated at the diplomatic level.

27. Malawi (Malawi Human Rights Commission)

The Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC) has:
- Participated in all UPR cycles through alternative reporting and oral statements.
- Served on the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-Up (NMIRF), led by the Ministry of Justice.
- Conducted monitoring missions, public inquiries, investigations, and capacity-building interventions.
- Strengthened cooperation with Government, Parliament, civil society organisations, and development partners

The MHRC adopts a multi-stakeholder approach, which promotes accountability and sustained follow-up on UPR recommendations:

- Membership in the NMIRF: The MHRC participates in preparing the National UPR Report under the leadership of the Ministry of Justice.
- Engagement with Parliament and Executive Agencies: The MHRC submits annual human rights reports to Parliament and appears before parliamentary committees on thematic issues.
- Partnerships with Civil Society: The MHRC collaborates with organizations such as Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation, Centre for the Development of People, Youth and Society, and Malawi Network of Older Persons' Organizations during preparation of alternative UPR reports.
- Collaboration with Development Partners: The Commission works closely with partners including UNDP, UN Women, USAID, and diplomatic missions.

28. The Maldives (Human Rights Commission of the Maldives)

Implementation of UPR recommendations

The Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM) closely monitors the efforts of stakeholders, the challenges they face, and the activities planned to implement the UPR recommendations. The implementation status of each recommendation is evaluated using the criteria outlined in the table below. Recommendations are systematically followed prior to the submission of HRCM's report for each UPR cycle.

Criteria used to evaluate status of implementation		
Score	**Indicator**	**Status**
100	**Implemented**	Recommendation fully implemented
75	**Positive progress**	50% of the recommendation implemented/completed
50	**Adequate Progress**	Initiated the implementation of the recommendations in the Action Plan/ Annual Work Plan
		Standard Operating Procedures/Administrative codes endorsed
25	**Nominal Development**	Recommendation included in the endorsed action plan
		Recommendation included in the Annual Work Plan
		Budget allocated to implement the recommendations
0	**No Progress**	No progress
		Recommendation rejected/ Not willing to implement the recommendations
0	**No information received/further information required**	No information received/further information required

Advocacy and Awareness-Raising

Following the publication of the Report of the UPR Working Group, HRCM conducts a UPR stakeholder forum. The forum aims to disseminate information on the recommendations

made to the State during the UPR cycle. HRCM undertakes a recommendation mapping process to identify the relevant authorities responsible for implementing each of the recommendations accepted by the Maldives, and the forum is attended by these stakeholders. The Report of the Working Group on the UPR, along with the forum's outcome report, is shared with the participants of the forum.

Participation in Government Consultations

Prior to the review, HRCM participates in Government-held consultations and contributes to the State report by providing comments, technical input, and relevant data derived from cases investigated by the Commission. HRCM shares information on key human rights concerns identified through its complaint mechanism, monitoring activities, and thematic work to ensure that the State report reflects factual developments and existing challenges.

Written Submission for the Summary of Stakeholder Information

The process that the HRCM follows is as follows:

- Selection of Thematic Areas

  The thematic areas of the UPR report are prioritized through a top-down approach, whereby recommendations from the UPR and concluding observations issued by UN human rights treaty bodies are analysed to determine the relative significance of the human rights issues identified. This analysis is further corroborated with HRCM's annual investigation statistics to validate the identified concerns. Following the identification of thematic areas, a bottom-up approach is applied to further assess and refine priority areas based on ground-level realities.

- Field Visits (Atoll Monitoring Visits)

  Field visits are conducted to acquire and verify the implementation status of UPR recommendations covering the selected thematic areas of the report. Information from the UPR follow-up document, along with other in-house monitoring data and available statistics, is used as reference material in selecting locations (atolls) for the field study.

  To obtain information from diverse sources, representatives of various State institutions in the islands and atolls are consulted. Concurrently, focus group discussions are held with women, parents, migrant workers in the private sector, schools, island-based NGOs, youth, Island Councils, health facilities, Magistrate Courts, and other relevant stakeholders. A report is compiled based on the observations and findings from these field visits.

  To strengthen the analysis, an online questionnaire is utilized to gather additional data. This tool collects insights and feedback from participants in focus group discussions as well as residents of the islands visited. The primary aim of the

questionnaire is to obtain quantitative data reflecting the experiences and perspectives of individuals directly affected by human rights issues.

- Report Compilation

  The report is compiled based on issues identified through field visit reports, consultations with civil society organizations, the UPR follow-up document, and existing in-house monitoring data. The in-house monitoring data includes internal reports such as annual reports, assessments of compliance of national legislation with international human rights law, implementation status of treaty body concluding observations, and findings from field monitoring visits.

- Validation of Information

  The draft submission is shared with relevant Government authorities and civil society organizations to ensure broad participation and transparency. Stakeholders and members of civil society are provided with a designated timeframe to submit comments, and HRCM incorporates all relevant and feasible feedback into the final report.

Participation in the Adoption of UPR Outcomes

If budget is provided, HRCM delivers an oral statement and actively participates in the adoption process of the UPR outcome.

29. Mauritius (Commission nationale des droits de l'homme)

Implementation and Monitoring of UPR Recommendations

During both the third cycle (2018) and fourth cycle (January 2024), the Commission nationale des droits de l'homme (NHRC) played an active monitoring role in tracking the Government's implementation of accepted UPR recommendations. Key examples include:

- National Preventive Mechanism (NPM): The NHRC serves as the designated NPM under OPCAT. During the third and fourth cycles, it conducted regular visits to detention facilities and police cells, producing reports that informed both the Government's national report and civil society submissions. Of note, the NHRC produced a thorough report following issues which arose at Melrose prison and made recommendations to the government to prevent any recurrence.
- Cooperation with the Executive: The NHRC engaged with the Attorney General's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the preparation of the national reports for both cycles.

Role in Government-Held Consultations

- For both the third and fourth cycles, the NHRC submitted its input to the Government, providing independent assessments on the state of human rights in Mauritius.

- The NHRC submitted written observations highlighting gaps in implementation, particularly on the Equal Opportunities Act, the treatment of migrant workers, and prison conditions.

Written Submissions for the Summary of Stakeholder Information

- The NHRC prepared and submitted independent stakeholder reports to OHCHR for both cycles. These submissions followed a thematic structure aligned with the previous cycle's recommendations, covering civil and political rights (Chapter II of the Constitution), conditions of detention (NPM mandate), and emerging issues such as climate change and digital rights.

30. Morocco (Conseil national des droits de l'homme)

The Conseil national des droits de l'homme (CNDH) regularly submits its shadow report during each review. Thus, for the four cycles of the Universal Periodic Review, the CNDH submitted four parallel reports, in 2007, 2012, 2017 and 2022 respectively.

The CNDH monitors the implementation of the UPR recommendations that have been accepted but also encourages the government to reconsider its position on some of the partially or totally rejected recommendations.

Engagement with Parliament

Regarding legislative recommendations, the CNDH monitors their implementation. The CNDH has signed a memorandum of understanding with the two chambers of Parliament with a view to strengthening institutional cooperation, particularly in terms of monitoring the implementation of UPR recommendations. Several training sessions have been organized for parliamentarians and their staff on the implementation of UPR recommendations but also for treaty bodies.

In addition, the CNDH's opinions on draft laws systematically include references to the recommendations of the UPR.

Support and involvement of civil society

The CNDH actively works to raise awareness of the international human rights system, including the UPR, among national and international actors by supporting civil society in the development of shadow reports. For example, it involved young people from the twelve regions of Morocco in the 4th cycle of the UPR, inviting them to formulate their own recommendations. To this end, the CNDH organized training sessions for 18 young people on international standards and the UPR process. These young people then created a national coordination and submitted a parallel report to the UPR. The CNDH, together with other partners, also accompanied some of them to Geneva to participate in the pre-session, present their report and attend the review of the UPR.

The CNDH also ensures that it supports the DIDH in the organization of regional consultations with civil society organizations for the preparation of the national report. Thus, as part of the 4th cycle of the UPR, consultations were organized from March to June 2022 in the 12 regions of Morocco, during which the preliminary draft of the report was presented to 634 associations. They discussed its content with representatives of the public administration, the judiciary, regional councils, academics, the media, as well as the CNDH and its regional commissions. These consultations were supported by the 12 regional commissions of the CNDH, covering the entire national territory. They highlighted the territorial dynamics of the implementation of the UPR recommendations. They also helped to identify the challenges encountered and to specify the role of the various actors involved.

Engagement with other stakeholders

Regarding recommendations relating to public policies, the CNDH is invited to contribute to their development and follow-up, ensuring the adoption of a human rights-based approach, in particular through the follow-up of UPR recommendations.

The CNDH also ensures that the recommendations are made known and promoted to the actors concerned, through meetings that generally constitute a framework for exchange to recall Morocco's commitments in terms of human rights, in particular the recommendations accepted during the UPR, and to discuss how the parties involved should implement them.

In this context, and in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the CNDH and the General Directorate of National Security (DGSN) in September 2022, as well as cooperation with the Royal Gendarmerie, the CNDH has organized several training and information sessions on human rights. During these meetings, the CNDH systematically makes sure to recall and explain the recommendations issued by the treaty bodies and those resulting from the UPR.

31. Namibia (Office of the Ombudsman)

The Office of the Ombudsman serves as an observer on the national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up (the Inter-Ministerial Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Committee), which, in collaboration with CSOs, works to ensure that the UPR process is inclusive and that the implementation of UPR recommendations is effectively monitored. It takes part in the process of preparing the national UPR report. The Office of the Ombudsman also drafts shadow reports for the UPR.

The Ombudsman has used outreach programs to connect with indigenous communities, ensuring that their issues regarding access to government services are included in reports to the Human Rights Council.

The Ombudsman regularly hosts capacity-building training on human rights and ethical policing for the Namibian Police Force, directly addressing recommendations regarding torture prevention and administrative justice.

The Ombudsman, as a member of the Law Reform and Development Commission, plays an active role in legislative reforms, directly responding to UPR recommendations.

In preparation for and in response to UPR recommendations regarding torture and excessive use of force, the Ombudsman initiated the review and update of the Namibian Police Human Rights and Torture Prevention Training Manuals. The Office also co-facilitated workshops with the Namibian Correctional Service on the use of force, incorporating human rights standards and providing data-driven feedback on incidents of brutality and medical neglect.

32. New Zealand (Human Rights Commission)

Engagement of the New Zealand HRC in the UPR 3rd cycle / New Zealand's 2018 review

- At the UPR pre-session in December 2018, the Commission presented a statement and engaged with States' Permanent Missions to the UN Office in Geneva. As a result, a large majority of the Commission's 78 recommendations were reflected in the UPR Working Group's draft report on New Zealand, including recommendations in new areas such as SOGIESC rights, climate change, business and human rights, and a national plan of action for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

- The Commission produced a video statement by the Chief Commissioner to UNHRC for screening at the formal adoption of the UPR recommendations on New Zealand at the 41st session of UNHRC. The advance copy of the Government's adoption statement to the Human Rights Council informed the Government's position on each of the UPR recommendations. Out of the 194 recommendations, 160 were agreed and 34 noted.

Engagement of the New Zealand HRC in the UPR 4th cycle / New Zealand's 2024 review

- Following the success of the in-country pre-session in 2018, the HRC held another pre-session in March 2024. Information about this session can be found here: https://tikatangata.org.nz/our-work/wellington-upr-presession-presentations-7-march-2024. Over 15 groups made presentations to diplomats on a range of issues.
- The Commission had many meetings with diplomats in Geneva and with the NZ missions back in NZ in the lead up to the review.

33. Nigeria (National Human Rights Commission)

Engagement with the NMIRF

The creation in 2024 of Nigeria's National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-Up (NMIRF) represents a landmark institutional reform and a significant good practice arising from previous UPR cycles. The National Human Rights Commission's (NHRC) engagement with the NMIRF framework has helped ensure that human rights considerations remain central to national reporting and implementation processes.

Independent National Consultations Led by NHRC

In fulfilment of its independent mandate, the NHRC conducted national consultations specifically for the UPR process, bringing together government actors, CSOs, National Human Rights Institutions, development partners, and other stakeholders. Participants not only provided substantive inputs but were also afforded the opportunity to review and validate the NHRC's draft report, ensuring accuracy, balance, and credibility. This participatory approach reinforced the Commission's role as a bridge between the State and non-state actors.

In-House Consultations and Use of Field-Based Evidence

The Commission complemented external consultations with in-house consultations across its departments and state offices, drawing on on-the-ground experiences, complaints data, monitoring reports, and thematic investigations. This internal process ensured that the NHRC's UPR engagement was evidence-based and reflective of lived human rights realities across the country, particularly in conflict-affected and underserved communities.

Thematic Disaggregation of UPR Recommendations and Assignment of Responsibilities

A key operational good practice by the NHRC was the disaggregation of UPR recommendations into thematic areas, with corresponding identification of responsible Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) for each cluster. This approach facilitated national circulation of recommendations, provided clarity on institutional responsibilities, served as a practical guide for tracking implementation; and supported monitoring and follow-up by the NHRC and other stakeholders.

Development of an Annex with a Glossary for Assessing Implementation

Nigeria's submission included an annex to the UPR report containing a glossary and assessment framework for evaluating the status of implementation of recommendations from previous cycles. This innovation enhanced transparency, promoted a common understanding of implementation benchmarks, and reduced ambiguity in reporting progress.

34. Oman (Oman Human Rights Commission)

Implementation of UPR recommendations

- Structured monitoring framework

  The Oman Human Rights Commission (OHRC) developed an internal tracking matrix for all UPR recommendations accepted by the Government of the Sultanate of Oman, categorized by thematic area (e.g. women's rights, rights of persons with disabilities, migrant workers, deprivation of liberty, children, trafficking). Each recommendation was mapped to:
    - a lead government entity and supporting entities.
    - specific, time-bound implementation indicators.
    - available and required data sources.

The matrix is reviewed periodically and used to prepare OHRC follow-up reports and inputs to national consultations.

- Cooperation with the executive and legislative branches

  OHRC held regular coordination meetings with relevant ministries and governmental bodies to:
  - Share information on progress and challenges related to individual recommendations.
  - Discuss draft laws and policies with direct relevance to UPR outcomes (e.g. legislation on trafficking, labour law reforms, and disability rights).

  The Commission provided written legal and human-rights-based opinions on selected draft legislation to help align them with Oman's international obligations and UPR commitments.

- Engagement with civil society

  OHRC convened multi-stakeholder roundtables with civil society organizations (CSOs), professional associations, and academia to:
  - Gather independent information on the implementation of UPR recommendations.
  - Identify gaps between law and practice.
  - Encourage CSOs to prepare their own submissions and participate in the UPR process.

- Impact

  UPR recommendations and OHRC follow-up work contributed to:
  - Increased attention to the rights of specific groups (e.g. persons with disabilities, women, children, foreign labour rights).
  - More systematic inclusion of human-rights considerations in draft laws and national strategies, including those linked to Oman Vision 2040 (long-term national development strategy).

<u>Advocacy and awareness-raising</u>

OHRC carried out public outreach through:
- Targeted awareness forums that explained what the UPR is, the recommendations made to Oman in the 3rd and 4th cycles and the roles of government, OHRC and civil society in follow-up and implementation.
- Thematic workshops (e.g. on labour rights, child rights, and rights of persons with disabilities).

<u>Role regarding Government-held consultations prior to the review</u>

Before each review, OHRC:

- Participated as an independent institution in national consultations organized by the Government on the preparation of its national UPR report.
- Provided comments and technical inputs on the draft national report, including:
  - highlighting progress in areas where implementation had advanced.
  - drawing attention to remaining gaps and recommending more specific benchmarks and timelines.
- Where possible, OHRC advocated for broader participation of civil society and vulnerable groups as well as the inclusion of concrete indicators and data in the national report.

Written submissions for the Summary of Stakeholder Information

The OHRC prepared independent written submissions for the 3rd and 4th cycles based on:
- complaints and cases handled by the Commission.
- monitoring visits (e.g. to detention facilities, shelters, and care institutions).
- consultations with CSOs and experts.
- review of legislation, policies, and statistical data against practices on the ground.

An internal working group coordinated the drafting, ensuring contributions from different thematic units. Submissions were organised by:
- cross-cutting issues (legal and institutional framework, cooperation with international mechanisms).
- thematic areas (e.g. equality and non-discrimination, administration of justice, freedom of opinion and expression, economic and social rights, rights of specific groups).

Each section typically included:
- a brief overview of the legal and policy framework.
- progress since the previous UPR.
- continuing challenges and concrete recommendations.

Participation in the adoption of the UPR outcomes

OHRC participated in the Human Rights Council sessions relating to Oman's reviews, including the adoption of the UPR outcome. The Commission issued public comments on the outcome, welcoming accepted recommendations and encouraging the State to consider those noted. It also used the adoption stage as a reference point to renew its engagement with national stakeholders on implementation priorities.

35. Peru (Defensoría del Pueblo)

Engagement of the Defensoría in the third cycle:

In May and June 2018, in relation to the recommendations provided in the UPR, the Defensoría del Pueblo (DP) presented the reports of Attachment No. 002-2018-DP/ADHPD: "Obligation of the Peruvian State to Apply International Standards for the Recognition and Protection of the Right to Gender Identity," and No. 003-2018-DP/ADHPD: "Contributions to the Investigation and Punishment of Acts of Violence Committed against LGBTI Persons."

Engagement of the Defensoría in the fourth cycle:

The PD created the Intervention Strategy of the Breaking Chains Program (PRC) through Ombudsman Resolution No. 013-2023/DP, to serve children and adolescents (NNA) in situations of high vulnerability, segmented into sons and daughters of people deprived of liberty, indirect victims of femicide, victims of sexual violence, human trafficking, and other situations of serious lack of protection.

This represents a consolidated good institutional practice that strengthens the role of the Ombudsman's Office of Peru in the follow-up of the UPR on children's rights. Experience shows that effective compliance with international recommendations on children requires preventive, structured and sustainable mechanisms, fully aligned with the Paris Principles.

The DP established a mechanism for follow-up on its recommendations, linked to the UPR. It integrated the recommendations into its regular oversights. The impact was that this allowed international recommendations to become management indicators for local and regional governments.

36. The Philippines (Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines)

The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP):
- submitted reports in all four cycles
- conducted consultations with civil society and government agencies
- published a handbook to document the processes of the first and second cycles
- held briefings with the diplomatic community, and
- engaged in interactive dialogues.

Before the third cycle, the CHRP participated for the first time in UPR Info's Pre-Sessions in Geneva. The sessions enabled National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to brief recommending States about the human rights situation in the Philippines, along with a brief overview of the situation of sectoral rights such as the rights of women, children, migrant workers, and persons with disabilities. It also gave a chance for CHRP to speak with specific member States and their embassies to carry pertinent recommendations during the interactive dialogue.

During the third and fourth cycles, the CHRP initiated a live webcast of both the interactive dialogue and the adoption of the UPR outcomes.
- For the third cycle, live webcasts in the CHRP premises drew various stakeholders, including civil society partners, human rights advocates, the diplomatic community, and the media.
- For the fourth cycle, a social media campaign amplified the visibility of the UPR process on the CHRP social media pages. The webcasts provided space for the participants to observe and give informed reactions on the proceedings and to increase their appreciation of the review process.

The CHRP has consistently reminded the government of its human rights obligations in accordance with the 1987 Philippine Constitution and the Paris Principles. Following the adoption of the third and fourth cycle recommendations, it issued policy advisories that guided duty-bearers in implementing their obligations and rights-holders in reclaiming their rights.

- For the third cycle, along with submitting an NHRI final report, the CHRP also issued an advisory during the mid-term of the review cycle, encouraging the State to submit a mid-term report.
- For the fourth cycle, the CHRP has drafted its own mid-term report, currently under review by the CHRP Commission en Banc.

Domestically, the UPR has enabled the CHRP and CSOs to come together and develop comprehensive priority recommendations grounded in national and local experiences. Before the fourth cycle of the UPR, the CHRP and the Council for People's Development and Governance (CPDG), with support from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Manila, formulated joint recommendations which were shared with the diplomatic community in the Philippines; the diplomatic community through this CHRP-CSO engagement were requested to brief their respective capitals and Permanent Missions in Geneva ahead of the interactive dialogue with the Philippine government in November 2022.

Since the adoption of the fourth cycle recommendations, the CHRP, OHCHR, and CSOs have monitored the government's implementation progress, developing clear, measurable, and practical indicators to track advancements, identify gaps, and ensure accountability across institutions.

From 2023 through the first half of 2025, a series of workshops and consultations were conducted with CSOs to develop structural, process, and outcome indicators addressing thematic and general human rights concerns under the accepted and noted recommendations. These indicators are evidence-based, community-informed, and aligned with international human rights standards. The indicators were presented to the Philippine government and the diplomatic community.

37. Qatar (National Human Rights Committee)

Implementation of recommendations

The National Human Rights Committee (NHCR) continuously monitors the State's implementation of UPR recommendations, as well as closely cooperates with the executive and legislative authorities to ensure that the recommendations are integrated into national policies and programs.

The NHRC has consistently raised substantive issues in a clear and objective manner, explicitly identifying key concerns and placing them on the agenda for dialogue with the relevant authorities. Whenever doing so, the Committee refers to specific recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review and calls for their implementation.

Cooperation with Civil Society

The NHRC raised awareness among government entities, civil society organizations, and the public about the objectives and mechanisms of the Universal Periodic Review and the importance of participating in it. The Committee also focused on encouraging civil society to provide information and observations that contribute to the preparation of the national report and to the submission of shadow reports, in addition to supporting the follow-up on the implementation of previous recommendations.

To strengthen this role, the Committee organized workshops and lectures aimed at training participants on the preparation of national and parallel reports, as well as national forums for the exchange of experiences between government entities and civil society organizations. These activities targeted all segments of society, including workers, women, children, and more vulnerable groups, with the aim of enhancing their understanding of their rights and the practical means of following up on the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review. Through these initiatives, the Committee contributed to increasing local participation and ensuring that recommendations are objective and applicable in practice.

In cooperation with the Qatar Foundation for Social Work and several partners, the NHRC also organized a number of training activities aimed at strengthening national capacities in report drafting and enhancing knowledge of human rights.

Government Consultations Prior to the Review

Prior to each Universal Periodic Review, the NHRC participates in the consultations organized by the Government, where it provides its expertise and observations on priority human rights issues. It also contributes to identifying the topics that should be emphasized in the national report. In addition, the Committee contributes data to the report, including information related to complaints it receives and other relevant information that helps inform and enrich the national report.

Written Contributions to the Stakeholders' Summary

Each time the State of Qatar has undergone the Universal Periodic Review, the NHRC has submitted a shadow report or an independent written contribution in its own name. This report reflects the Committee's independent perspective, separate from that of the Government. In preparing the report, the Committee relies on its own monitoring and observations regarding the human rights situation, while organizing the information in a systematic manner that addresses legislative and institutional developments, efforts undertaken, existing challenges, and practical recommendations aimed at strengthening the protection and promotion of human rights.

Adoption of the UPR Outcome

During the adoption sessions of the Universal Periodic Review, the NHRC delivers a brief oral statement focusing on national priorities and existing human rights challenges. This intervention aims to highlight key issues, present the Committee's independent perspective,

separate from that of the Government regarding the extent to which previous recommendations have been implemented, and ensure that fundamental observations and the genuine needs of society remain part of the dialogue during the adoption of the final outcomes.

38. Republic of Korea (National Human Rights Commission of Korea)

The National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK) actively engaged throughout the entire UPR cycle, from the preparation stage to the follow-up phase.

Ahead of the review, the NHRCK contributed to informing the international community about the human rights situation in the Republic of Korea and to facilitating the formulation of substantive recommendations through multiple channels, including:

- the submission of an independent report,
- the provision of comments on the draft national report to the Ministry of Justice, encouraging it to include issues reflecting the human rights challenges facing South Korean society since the third review, and recommending the participation and perspectives of the judiciary and the legislature in the preparation of the report.
- prior coordination with civil society in preparation for participation in the UPR Info Pre-session to identify and coordinate priority human rights issues to be presented by civil society organizations and the national human rights institution
- briefing sessions for diplomatic missions in the country, explaining the main findings of its independent report and presenting key human rights issues and proposed recommendations concerning the Republic of Korea.

In particular, the coordination of presentation themes with civil society organizations ahead of the UPR Info Pre-session can be regarded as an example of formally structuring cooperation between an independent national institution and civil society.

During the implementation stage, the NHRCK continued to encourage the Government to accept and implement the recommendations and to develop implementation plans through various initiatives, including

- the issuance of a Chairperson's statement,
- presentations at Government-hosted follow-up meetings,
- oral statement at the Human Rights Council, and
- the organization of panel discussions on implementation measures.

Furthermore, in 2024 the scope of its activities expanded to include discussions on institutionalizing a National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRF) to ensure the systematic implementation of recommendations from UN human rights mechanisms, including those arising from the UPR.

39. Senegal (Comité sénégalais des droits de l'Homme)

<u>Implementation of UPR recommendations</u>

- Capacity building for members of the National Consultative Council on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (NCHRC-IHL), on the drafting of the alternative report in preparation for the fourth (4th) cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Senegal.
- Strengthening the capacities of parliamentarians on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism.

Impact:
- Improvement of the national ownership of UPR recommendations by the State of Senegal
- Strengthening of the legal framework (penal reforms, labour law, refugee status, protection of minors).
- Use of UPR recommendations in legislative and judicial action.

Awareness-raising, popularization and promotion of UPR at all stages

- Capacity building of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the National Human Rights Commission of Senegal (CNDH) on the drafting of the alternative report in preparation for the fourth (4th) cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Senegal
- Permanent advocacy with the institutions of the Republic, the Government and civil society.
- Advocacy with the Senegalese National Assembly in accordance with the Belgrade Principles.
- The CNDH-UPR Info Joint Programme to democratise access to the UPR.

Impact:
- An increase in the participation of CSOs and local actors in the process.

Role of the CNDH in national consultations prior to the review

- The organization of national multi-stakeholder consultation workshops.
- Coordination with specialized coalitions (women's rights, disability). During the preparation of the 4th UPR, a good number of organizations and coalitions of organizations were formed during the National Pressure held in the premises of the Swiss Embassy.

Impact:
- A more inclusive and representative process.
- Better quality of national contributions.

40. Slovenia (Human Rights Ombudsman)

In both the 3rd and 4th UPR cycles, the Ombudsman submitted stakeholder reports to OHCHR for inclusion in the Summary of Stakeholder Information and attended UPR pre-sessions organised by UPR Info, delivering oral statements.

Recognising the strict word limitations of stakeholder submissions and the limited speaking time available during UPR pre-sessions, the Ombudsman additionally prepared a dedicated Information Paper specifically for diplomatic missions to supplement the information shared in the stakeholder submission and the oral presentation at the pre-session.

The Ombudsman also, upon request, provided further written clarifications and held online meetings with several diplomatic representatives.

During both cycles, the Ombudsman actively participated in meetings organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with civil society organisations and advocated for the meaningful and effective inclusion of civil society in the national UPR process.

In the 4th cycle, the Ombudsman also met separately with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and provided substantive comments on the draft national report of Slovenia.

In the 3rd cycle, the Ombudsman actively participated in a session of the Inter-Ministerial Commission on Human Rights dedicated to the presentation and discussion of UPR outcomes.

Recognising the important role of civil society in the UPR process and the potentially limited knowledge of the UPR mechanism, in 2024 the Ombudsman prepared and disseminated a short practical guide entitled "How to Write a Submission for the Universal Periodic Review." The guidance explained the structure and functioning of the UPR mechanism and provided practical instructions on:

- Substantive content requirements and recommendations;
- Formatting and language requirements;
- Deadlines and applicable word limits;
- Technical submission procedures through the online UPR Submissions Registration System;
- Available OHCHR technical support contacts.

The guidance also directed stakeholders to relevant UN guidelines, engagement tips, and external resources (including UPR Info). The guide was published on the Ombudsman's website and proactively shared with non-governmental organisations to encourage informed and broader participation.

41. South Africa (South African Human Rights Commission)

<u>Implementation of UPR recommendations</u>

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) monitors the implementation of the UPR recommendations noting that there are several overlaps in the recommendations:

- Through its advisory Section 11 meetings (which is composed of a broad range of stakeholders), the SAHRC engages with civil society and academics on issues of mutual concern, including recommendations to strengthen the human rights framework in South Africa.
- The SAHRC also has quarterly meetings with the Department of Justice and uses this as a platform to exchange information and receive updates.
- Similarly, the SAHRC has a good relationship with Parliament and have previously been called to briefings around thematic human rights issues.

While these engagements are not strictly related to the UPR recommendations, the subject matter relates thereto and is used as a means of monitoring progress as well. The matrix developed by the OHCHR serves as a valuable tool to assist in tracking the recommendations.

Advocacy and awareness raising at all stages

The SAHRC provided advice to civil society organisations on how to participate in the UPR process. The SAHRC undertakes media campaigns and issues media releases, social media posts during the UPR process and at the adoptions level. These initiatives are included in the Annual Report, which is tabled with Parliament, and other thematic reports which are publicly available.

Role regarding Government-held consultations prior to the review

The Government shared the draft UPR report prior to submission for the SAHRC's consideration and input, where applicable. As with State reports to the treaty bodies, the SAHRC only points out material or factual inaccuracies, especially insofar as it relates to the institution or the initiatives it has undertaken.

Written submissions for the summary of stakeholder information

The SAHRC has a dedicated focal point within the institution who coordinates and prepares the drafting of the NHRI submission. This is done in consultation with other work streams within the SAHRC, including Research and Commissioner focal areas. The drafting can present a challenge at times as the word limitation restricts the amount of information which can be provided. The SAHRC therefore prioritises key issues in its submission and seeks to ensure that each Commissioner's focal area is mentioned. The draft version of the NHRI submission is circulated within the Secretariat and at Commissioners' level for consideration and input. After the necessary revisions have been incorporated, the SAHRC receives final approval from the Chairperson and submits the approved version to the OHCHR.

Participation in the adoptions

The SAHRC participated in the UPR adoptions process through the submission of statements and video messages for screening at the Human Rights Council. The SAHRC also follows all the UPR proceedings live via UN WebTV.

42. Sweden (Swedish Institute for Human Rights)

The Swedish Institute for Human Rights (SIHR) organised an open digital information meeting in 2024 for human-rights specialists and civil-society organisations in Sweden. UPR Info presented the review process and timelines, while the Ministry for Foreign Affairs explained its national preparations. This helped ensure that relevant stakeholders had early access to practical information and supported civil-society actors wishing to engage in the process.

It organised a national digital pre-session for embassies in Stockholm in March and invited NGOs to present their key recommendations directly. This format proved effective and

demonstrated the bridge-building role that an NHRI can play between civil society, diplomatic missions, and the state under review.

It developed short fact sheets summarising its priority recommendations. These helped communicate its main concerns in a concise and accessible format, especially during bilateral meetings with permanent missions in Geneva in connection to the pre-session organized by UPR Info.

Once the recommendations to Sweden were issued, the SIHR quickly compiled and analysed them, identifying those of particular importance and those where the government's position was not yet clear. This rapid synthesis enabled it to provide timely written input to the government ahead of its formal consideration of the recommendations.

43. Thailand (National Human Rights Commission of Thailand)

Preparation of written submissions

The National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

44. Togo (Commission nationale des droits de l'homme)

Implementation and follow-up of UPR recommendations

In 2022, the Commission nationale des droits de l'homme (CNDH) organized a workshop on the development of strategies for the implementation of the recommendations of the UPR, in collaboration with the Collective of Associations for the Fight against Impunity in Togo (CACIT) and with the technical and financial support of UPR. The workshop aimed to raise awareness among participants on the active role that the CNDH and civil society organizations play in the implementation of UPR recommendations and to develop action strategies for an effective implementation of the recommendations.

National consultations on the drafting of mid-term reports

The CNDH, in collaboration with CACIT, with the technical and financial support of UPR-info, organized a workshop from 04 to 06 September 2024 in Lomé. The event brought together

representatives from government, civil society and the CNDH to promote collaboration and ensure the effective implementation of the human rights recommendations from the third cycle of Togo's UPR. The event also focused on the drafting and importance of mid-term reports.

The impact was the strengthening of national coordination around the UPR, improving the quality of follow-up to recommendations and consolidating the role of the NHRI as a key actor in the national implementation and monitoring mechanism.

Awareness raising and promotion at all stages

The CNDH organized awareness-raising activities in 2022 on the UPR process and on the recommendations from the 3rd cycle for state actors and civil society and contribute to decision-making at the government level for a wide acceptance of the UPR recommendations.

Consultations organised by the Government prior to the review

The CNDH was systematically involved in the national preparatory consultations conducted by the Government for the preparation of the national report submitted to the Human Rights Council. In this capacity, it took part in inter-institutional consultation meetings, providing independent expertise based on its activities of monitoring, protecting and promoting human rights throughout the national territory.

The CNDH is also a member of the Interministerial Commission for the Drafting of Reports and the Follow-up of Recommendations and, as such, it participates in the preparation of the State report within the framework of the UPR.

The active involvement of the CNDH in the consultations organized by the Government has contributed to improving the quality and credibility of the preparatory process for the UPR, strengthening the inclusiveness of national contributions and consolidating the recognition of the role of the NHRI as a key actor in the national dialogue on human rights.

Written contributions to the summary of information provided by stakeholders

In the third cycle, as in previous cycles, the CNDH's summary report summarized information on conditions of detention, access to justice, civil liberties and the situation of vulnerable groups, explicitly structuring it around previous UPR recommendations. It also included a specific analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on economic and social rights and the exercise of fundamental freedoms.

The drafting process was based on internal coordination involving the technical directorates and the regional offices, ensuring a balanced representation of national realities and strict compliance with the guidelines of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

These practices have strengthened the quality, relevance and credibility of the summary of information provided by stakeholders and consolidated the role of the NHRI in the UPR mechanism.

Participation in adoptions.

The CNDH took part in the adoption session, on June 30, 2022 in Geneva, of Togo's final report under the 3rd cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). It highlighted recommendations requiring priority acceptance, including those related to conditions of detention, access to justice, protection of women's and children's rights, and strengthening the rule of law.

The participation of the CNDH in the adoption process contributed to a better consideration of recommendations aligned with national human rights priorities, to strengthen the coherence of the commitments made by the State and to consolidate the role of the INDH as a key actor in the UPR mechanism.

45. Uganda (Uganda Human Rights Commission)

In each UPR cycle, the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) submitted independent reports to the United Nations Human Rights Council and continues to prepare for subsequent submissions. The UHRC issues statements during review sessions and observes all stages of the UPR process, ensuring independent oversight, transparency, and credibility.

Inclusive and Thematic Consultations

UHRC conducts wide and inclusive consultations in preparation for its independent reports. These engagements involve government institutions, civil society organizations, and vulnerable and marginalized groups to ensure that diverse perspectives are reflected in the reporting process. Consultations are organized under key thematic areas, including civil and political rights, as well as economic, social, and cultural rights. This thematic approach strengthens the quality and coherence of stakeholder input.

Engagement with the Inter-Ministerial Committee

UHRC is part of the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC), the Government body responsible for coordinating Uganda’s reporting and follow-up to regional and international human rights mechanisms during the drafting of its independent report. The Commission consults the IMC to verify information, obtain updated data, and gather additional clarification on government positions and implementation measures. This engagement enables UHRC to enrich and enhance the quality, accuracy, and credibility of its independent report while maintaining its autonomy.

Monitoring and Follow-Up on Recommendations

UHRC monitors Government compliance with UPR recommendations and treaty body reporting obligations. It annually calls upon the Government to implement outstanding recommendations and continues to advocate for the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights.

Dissemination of UPR Recommendations

The UHRC disseminates the UPR recommendations through multiple channels. These include publishing annual reports, issuing official communications to Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), and conducting stakeholder engagements. Through these efforts, the UHRC ensures that UPR recommendations are widely shared, understood, and integrated into the planning and implementation processes of relevant institutions. After each review cycle, UHRC develops a matrix (UPR Booklet) identifying responsible MDAs for specific recommendations to strengthen accountability.

46. Uzbekistan (Commissioner for Human Rights of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan)

The Ombudsman of Uzbekistan consistently participates at all stages of the UPR process – from the preparation of national reports and consultations to the monitoring of the implementation of recommendations – in cooperation with national mechanisms for the implementation of international human rights obligations.

Establishment and Functioning of the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF)

In 2018, Uzbekistan established the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF). Within this framework, the mandate of the National Centre of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Human Rights (NCHR) was expanded. The Ombudsman of Uzbekistan closely cooperates with the NMRF by providing analytical materials, statistical data, and proposals aimed at strengthening the implementation of UPR and treaty body recommendations.

Inclusive Procedure for the Preparation of National Reports

The preparation of national reports under the UPR is conducted through an inclusive and inter-agency approach. The Ombudsman participates in consultative meetings together with representatives of state authorities, the judiciary, law enforcement agencies and civil society organizations.

Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight over the Implementation of UPR Recommendations

The Ombudsman of Uzbekistan maintains systematic cooperation with parliamentary structures on monitoring and implementing UPR recommendations. In 2020, a Parliamentary Commission on Compliance with International Human Rights Obligations was established. In July 2023, the Commission reviewed the progress in implementing UPR recommendations and endorsed the draft national report.

The Role of the Ombudsman in the Implementation of UPR Recommendations

The Ombudsman of Uzbekistan actively contributes to the implementation of UPR and UN treaty body recommendations.

Key areas of activity include:
- preparation of alternative reports on the implementation of international human rights obligations
- monitoring of human rights compliance based on the analysis of citizens' complaints and findings of monitoring visits
- engagement with Parliament and executive authorities regarding implementation of recommendations
- participation in national consultations during the preparation of state reports.

On 15 November 2024, a new edition of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Commissioner of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Human Rights (Ombudsman)" entered into force. It:
- expanded the powers of the Ombudsman
- strengthened institutional independence
- enhanced the mandate in the field of torture prevention
- explicitly enshrined the right to submit alternative reports to international bodies
- provides mechanisms for issuing recommendations, warnings, submissions, and requests aimed at restoring violated rights.

This significantly strengthened the institutional capacity of the Ombudsman to monitor and facilitate the implementation of UPR recommendations.

47. Venezuela (Defensoría del Pueblo)

Ater the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review, a workshop was held to publicize the results of the review, the main recommendations and the challenges in terms of public policies related to human rights for the period 2022-2025. This workshop was given to officials of public institutions: Police Forces (Bolivarian National Police, different state and municipal police, Scientific, Criminal and Criminal Investigations Corps) and the Bolivarian National Armed Forces; institutions of health care, education, children, the elderly and, also, students of universities (Simón Rodríguez National Experimental University, National Polytechnic Experimental University of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces, National Experimental University of Security and Bolivarian University of Venezuela); to organizations and individuals from civil society and communities.

A Practical Guide was developed to publicize the scope of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), its procedures and mechanisms for participation, and was disseminated among civil society organizations in order to encourage them to prepare their respective alternative reports.

Of the recommendations accepted by the Venezuelan State in 2022, there are 31 that directly impact the mandate of the Ombudsman's Office in its powers to promote, monitor, and defend human rights. During the period 2022-2025, its application was addressed through coordination with other human rights institutions, with technical support from United Nations agencies, accompaniment with social movements, attention to complaints, complaints and petitions from citizens, special commissions and inspections of public and private institutions providing services related to human rights and specific population sectors.

In addition, the Office of the Ombudsman is a member of the National Human Rights Council, a body that coordinates, promotes and supports State public policies in the field of human rights and, therefore, participates in their design, implementation and evaluation. Thus, in the process of exchanging information between the institutions of the executive, legislative, judicial, electoral and other institutions that make up the Citizens' Power, with a view to the presentation of the national report for the fourth cycle of the review, the Office of the Ombudsman provides its contributions in the form of a written summary and verifies that the other institutions consolidate their information.

48. Zambia (Human Rights Commission of Zambia)

Engagement with Members of Parliament on UPR

The Human Rights Commission of Zambia (HRCZ) organises annual special engagement meetings with Members of Parliament. During these meetings UPR recommendations are discussed as firm commitment by the State to address pertinent human rights. The MPs are predominantly from the select Committee on Legal Affairs, Human Rights and Governance and other committees that deal with matters relating to human rights. The meetings are held to:

- enhance understanding of the UPR mechanism and the critical role played by parliamentarians in enhancing accountability and oversights over state actions, including domestication of human rights standards,
- advocate for legislative reforms including support for Commission budget allocations.
- encourage MPs to effectively engage the State during parliamentary debates on those commitments and implementation status.
- showcase best practices from other jurisdictions to demonstrate effective role played by legislature in the UPR process as part of enhancing promotion and protection of human rights.

Learning visits to other Jurisdictions on UPR

The Commission organised stakeholder visits to Uganda and Nigeria, to learn how those countries were implementing the UPR process. The stakeholders were deliberately chosen from active CSOs with the potential to influence the UPR process and State officials from critical focal point ministries such as those responsible for Justice and Foreign affairs.

Providing technical support in creating NMIRF

After the third cycle review, the Commission dedicated resources and provision of technical support to State efforts aimed at establishing a National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-Up (NMIRF). The establishment of an NMIRF was envisaged to strengthen inter-ministerial cooperation in implementation of recommendations from various human rights mechanisms. It is anticipated that this initiative will also enhance state capacity in implementing recommendation from human rights mechanisms and strengthen domestication of international and regional human rights standards.

Post-adoption Stakeholder Engagement and Awareness Raising

In line with the NHRI's role in the UPR process, the Commission holds stakeholder engagements on emerging UPR recommendations in all the provinces in the country. These engagements focus on identifying objects of recommendations, which stakeholders could collaborate with government and other stakeholders in implementing including advocacy and monitoring of implementation. These engagements also serve as awareness and capacity building for non-state actors especially. They have also encouraged collaboration in implementing certain actions using accepted recommendations as firm commitment by the State to take action on the issue at the core of the recommendation.

As a result of such collaboration based on UPR recommendations, Zambia is in the process of developing two national action plans: one on business and human rights and another on enhancing protection of persons with albinism. Ultimately, these engagements enhance stakeholders' capacity to hold the State accountable on UPR commitments and also State implementation capacity of recommendations from UPR cycles.

UPR Recommendations Advisories

Pursuant to the Commission's mandate as envisaged under the Paris Principles, the Commission provides comprehensive advisories on the recommendations from UPR review, especially noted recommendations, in order to help the State make informed decision whether to accept or note pending recommendations.

Advisories provide additional background information relating to the recommendation. If the recommendation is about continued action to address a particular issue, the advisory highlights actions already taken or implemented and what needs to be done to realise the object of the recommendation.

For some recommendations, for example those anchored on international human rights standards, advisories provide detailed understanding of those standards including obligations of the State and examples of best practices available from other states. These advisories usually end with recommendation to accept the recommendation. A notable example of impact from these advisories has been the notable increase in number of accepted recommendations during the third and fourth cycle. The State has also used these advisories as reference in their engagement with implementing Ministries, Depts and Agencies (MDAs).

State Consultations Prior to the Review

The Commission provides technical support to the State during stakeholder consultation process and preparation of State report prior to the UPR review. This technical support is usually around review of recommendations and determining achievement of recommendations objectives, partially implemented recommendations including challenges in implementing some of the recommendations.

The Commission also provides technical guidance to non-State actors in the preparation shadow reports. Its involvement in preparation of state and shadow reports helps understand

pertinent human rights issues and framing of the Commission shadow report. Ultimately, this contributes to strongly persuasive, relevant and more reliable UPR reports.

Submission of the independent report to the UPR Working Group

The Commission submits independent reports to the UPR Working Group on identified specific human rights issues. The reports provide an independent and balanced perspective on the human rights situation including suggested actionable recommendations. The reports usually highlight progress in implementing previous UPR recommendations, challenges and recommendations to address identified challenges. The reports sometimes included emerging human rights issues identified from the Commission's monitoring and interaction with different stakeholders across the country.

49. Zimbabwe (Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission)

Implementation of UPR recommendations

During the third cycle, Zimbabwe received recommendations to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Following this, the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC), United Nations Agencies and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) lobbied the State to implement the recommendations. In March 2025, the State ratified the Convention.

Government-held consultations prior to the review

In both the 3rd and 4th UPR cycles, the State invited the ZHRC to attend consultative and drafting processes towards developing the respective national UPR Reports. ZHRC made submissions, both orally and in writing, to the State, highlighting the Commission's assessment of the progress made by the State towards implementation of the different recommendations.

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