



**NMRF**

**Lessons from UPR Global**

**Good Practices**

Miloon Kothari, Former Special Rapporteur, UN  
Human Rights Council

**International Seminar NMRF**

**Marrakech, November 2022**

# Types of good practices

- Multi-stakeholder's platforms (government, NHRIs, UNCTs, Parliaments, CSOs)
- Data collection, analytical work and preparation of Mid-Term Reports (MTRs)
- National action plans on human rights
- Matrices and tools to track the implementation of UPR recommendations
- Mechanisms and methodologies to track implementation of all HR mechanisms recommendations
- Strengthened national human rights protection system and reduced gaps in implementation

# Types of good practices (cntd)

- Development of national/civil society coalitions for the UPR
- Increased involvement of UN agencies at national/international level
- Increased attention to international human rights commitments in the media
- Increased human rights education
- Increased integration of regional human rights issues
- Increased involvement of bilateral actors (Embassies, Donor agencies)

## UPR KEY STAKEHOLDERS

States:  
States under  
Review  
Recommending  
States

Civil Society  
Organizations  
Human Rights  
Defenders

National Human  
Rights Institutions

Parliamentarians

Academia


Media

UN Agencies

Faith-based  
organizations,  
indigenous  
groups, minority  
groups

Judges and  
Lawyers

Trade Unions




Multi-stakeholder  
involvement  
(government,  
NHRIs, Parliaments,  
CSOs)

## Inter-governmental consultations / Inter-ministerial committees

- Establishment of inter-ministerial committees and inter-governmental/regional consultations for preparation of UPR reports
- Such committees and consultations have adopted a broad consultative process

### Country examples:

- The DIDH (**Morocco**) and national UPR committee (**Thailand**) organised inter-governmental consultations and regional participation
- The inter-ministerial drafting committee (Botswana), also engaged in national capacity building




Multi-stakeholder  
involvement  
(government,  
NHRIs, Parliaments,  
CSOs) (continued)

## Validation meetings

- Validation meetings organised by governments with members of civil society
- These meetings have led to substantive inputs to each other's mid-term reports, increasing the legitimacy and credibility of each report
- Through recommendations and critical perspectives shared at these meetings, the reports that came out of them have comprehensively covered human rights issues in the concerned countries and assessed the status of implementation of UPR recommendations

### Country examples:

- Both **Morocco** and **Mongolia** have held such meetings with civil society, the NHRI and embassies




## Multi-stakeholder involvement (government, NHRIs, Parliaments, CSOs) (continued)

### Validation meetings (continued)

Country examples continued:

- In **Denmark**, the inter-ministerial human rights committee's report received contributions from the NHRI and the Danish NGO UPR committee
  - Feedback from public hearings held led to changes in the content of the mid-term report
- In **Montenegro**, consultations on the mid-term report were held bi-annually and included the office of the protector of human rights and freedoms (Ombudsman) and the UN system
  - These consultations resulted into an objective report with clear guidelines for further action from all actors



Multi-stakeholder  
involvement  
(government,  
NHRIs, Parliaments,  
CSOs) (continued)


## The Role of NGOs/NHRIs

- The submission of NGO/NHRI reports either individually or collectively has brought necessary independent perspectives into the mid-term reporting process

Country examples:

- In **Denmark**, the UPR committee of the Danish Human Rights Council which consists of 20 CSOs prepared a joint report together with the Danish Institute of Human Rights
- In **Singapore**, a joint report from CSOs, the media and the national coalition of human rights defenders was presented for the 2nd cycle of the UPR.
- The stakeholders' coalition in **Kenya** developed a mid-term report during which it received technical support from the Kenya national commission on human rights, OHCHR and UPR Info Africa.
- The public defender's office in **Georgia** submitted a mid-term report critically assessing the status of implementation of 2nd cycle UPR recommendations





Multi-stakeholder  
involvement  
(government,  
NHRIs, Parliaments,  
CSOs) (continued)


## Role of Parliaments

- As 60 – 70% of UPR recommendations require parliamentary approval for implementation, national parliaments are becoming more involved in the UPR process.

Country examples:

- After **Togo**'s 2nd UPR, MPs from the Togolese parliament participated in the multi-stakeholder dialogue on the UPR.
  - At the dialogue, organised by UPR Info, parliamentarians resolved to establish a Network of parliamentarians for the UPR
  - MPs also contributed to the CSO coalition mid-term report
- In **Mongolia**, the parliament played an active role in different stages in the monitoring and implementation process

The Mongolian human rights NGO forum also held meetings with the head of the human rights subcommittee of the parliament of Mongolia and with the heads of political parties



Multi-stakeholder  
involvement  
(government,  
NHRIs, Parliaments,  
CSOs) (continued)


### **Development of national/civil society coalitions for the UPR**

- **The Working Group on Human Rights in India and the UN (WGHR)**
- **COMANGO – Malaysia**
- **The Kenyan National Coalition of NGO's**
- **The National UPR Committee of Thailand**
- **The US Human Rights Network**



Data collection,  
tools, mechanisms

- **Data collection, analytical work and preparation of Mid Term Reports (MTR's)**
- **Development of Indicators to track progress**



Data collection,  
tools, mechanisms  
(continued)

- **Matrices and tools to track the implementation of UPR recommendations**
- **Mechanisms and methodologies to track implementation of all HR mechanisms recommendations**

## Further Reading

- Beyond Reporting: Transformational Changes on the Ground (2022)

<https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/general-document/2022-07/Beyond%20Reporting-EN-Web.pdf>

- UN Good Practices: How the UPR Supports Sustainable Development (2022)

[https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/UPR\\_good\\_practices\\_2022.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/UPR_good_practices_2022.pdf)

- Study on emerging Good Practices from the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), 2021:

[https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/UPR/Emerging\\_UPR\\_GoodPractices.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/UPR/Emerging_UPR_GoodPractices.pdf)

- Good practices from Federal States in the UPR process, UPR Info, 2021: <https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/general-document/pdf/research-en.pdf>




# National Action Plans

- **National action plans on human rights (NAPHR)**

- NAPHRs focus on the importance of building national capacity to ensure implementation of international human rights commitments
- NAPHRs also stress a comprehensive approach, thematically and geographically, in gathering content of action plans

Country examples:

- In **Thailand**, all parties concerned were encouraged to participate in the creation of the NAPHR
  - The public collectively participated in the preparing of an NAPHR first at the local level, which was then followed by the national plan
- In the **Netherlands**, consultations were held with the Netherlands institute of human rights, the national ombudsman, the children's ombudsman, amnesty international Netherlands and the Netherlands institute for social research
- In **Mongolia**, an ex-officio council was established to monitor the preparation and submission of the mid-term report
  - An implementation report had to be submitted to the council by stakeholders every January and to the Government every February
  - Such a two-step process was crucial to reinforce the importance of implementation of UPR recommendations



## National Action Plans (continued)

- **Strengthened national human rights protection system and reduced gaps in implementation**

## Criteria for a Successful NMRF

- **Continuous Involvement at all stages of Civil Society Organisations**
- **Continuous involvement at all stages of National Human Rights Institutions**
- **Continuous involvement of Parliaments/Parliamentary Committees**





## Criteria for a Successful NMRF

- **Full Integration of the SDGs**
- **Increased involvement of UN agencies at national/international level**
- **Increased attention to international human rights commitments in the media**



## Criteria for a Successful NMRF

- **Increased human rights education**
- **Increased integration of regional human rights issues**

## Criteria for a Successful NMRF

- **Increased involvement of bi-lateral actors (Embassies, Donor Agencies)**
- **Increased engagement with Academic Bodies**

## Questions for Discussion

- **Criteria for a successful NMRF**
- **Challenges/Obstacles towards a successful NMRF**
- **Practical application/Has the NMRF reduced the implementation gap**
- **Do we have examples of improved conditions on the ground.**