



# info sheet Human Rights

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)

### **WHAT IS THE UPR?**

UPR is a unique process which involves a periodic review of the human rights records of all 193 UN Member States. The UPR is a significant innovation of the Human Rights Council which is based on equal treatment for all countries. It provides an opportunity for all States to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to overcome challenges to the enjoyment of human rights. The UPR also includes a sharing of best human rights practices around the globe. Currently, no other mechanism of this kind exists.

### **WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE UPR?**

The ultimate goal of UPR is the improvement of the human rights situation in every country with significant consequences for people around the globe. The UPR is designed to prompt, support, and expand the promotion and protection of human rights on the ground. To achieve this, the UPR involves assessing States' human rights records and addressing human rights violations wherever they occur. The UPR also aims to provide technical assistance to States and enhance their capacity to deal effectively with human rights challenges and to share best practices in the field of human rights among States and other stakeholders.

### **WHEN WILL STATES HAVE THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS RECORDS REVIEWED BY THE UPR?**

States are reviewed every four years by UPR Working Group who meets three times a year. Only 14 are reviewed each year.

### **WHO CONDUCTS THE REVIEW?**

The reviews are conducted by the UPR Working Group which consists of the 47 members of the Council; however any UN Member State can take part in the discussion/dialogue with the reviewed States.

### **HOW ARE THE REVIEWS CONDUCTED?**

Reviews take place through an interactive discussion between the State under review and other UN Member States. This takes place during a meeting of the UPR Working Group. During this discussion any UN Member State can pose questions, comments and/or make recommendations to the States under review.

### **CAN NGOS BE INVOLVED?**

NGOs can submit information which can be added to the "other stakeholders" report which is considered during the review.

### **WHAT HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS ARE ADDRESSED?**

The UPR will assess the extent to which States respect their human rights obligations set out in: (1) the UN Charter; (2) the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; (3) human rights instruments to which the State is party (human rights treaties ratified by the State concerned); (4) voluntary pledges and commitments made by the State (e.g. national human rights policies and/or programmes implemented); and, (5) applicable international humanitarian law.

### **WHAT IS THE OUTCOME OF THE REVIEW?**

UPR Working Group issues an outcome report which provides a summary of the actual discussion. It therefore consists of the questions, comments and recommendations made by States to the country under review, as well as the responses by the reviewed State.

### **WHAT STEPS ARE TAKEN AS FOLLOW UP TO THE REVIEW?**

The State has the primary responsibility to implement the recommendations contained in the final outcome. The UPR ensures that all countries are accountable for progress or failure in implementing these recommendations. States are obligated to provide status report to the Working Group.