



Promoting and strengthening
the Universal Periodic Review
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United Nations Human Rights Council: 40th Session
Oral statement Item 6 – General Debate
***UPR Info* – 15 March 2019 (delivered by: Mona M'Bikay, Executive Director, *UPR Info*)**

Mr President,

We have just celebrated International Women's Rights Day on March 8th.

Women's rights issues are amongst the top 5 main issues raised during the UPR. However, many recommendations lack of specificity and ignore some issues affecting women's life. Furthermore, women are often portrayed as victims or associated with vulnerable groups.

As a member of the International Gender Champions, *UPR Info* would like to encourage recommending States to formulate recommendations that promote specific women's rights such as higher education for women and that support their participation in all spheres of their life so that they can realize their full potential. *UPR Info* encourages State under Review to analyze, in collaboration with other UPR stakeholders, how human rights issues affect women and girls differently and take measures to prevent and address inequalities and discriminations in law and in practice.

NHRIs and CSOs have an important role to play in human rights education to deconstruct and rewrite the narrative around gender role, norms and behavior. Parliaments can advance gender equality by revising legislation and allocating enough resources to ensure that the Government respect, protect and fulfill its obligations in regard as to women's rights.

UPR Info invites States to adopt an integrated approach for the planning, monitoring, implementation and reporting on UPR recommendations (and human rights recommendations in general) and the Sustainable Development Goals to realize sustainable and equal societies.

Finally, *UPR Info* proposes that States report under the Item 6 General Debate, one year after the adoption and to include in their statement actions taken to achieve gender equality. Ensuring a constructive and inclusive dialogue between all stakeholders thorough the cycle is fundamental for an effective and equitable implementation of the UPR recommendations.

I thank you.