

Project Outcome Report

CSO Coordination Meeting on UPR Armenia 9-11 February 2015 Yerevan, Armenia



On 9-11 February 2015, OSF-Armenia and *UPR Info* organised a “CSO Coordination Meeting on Armenia’s UPR 2015”. The purpose of the meeting was to better equip civil society in Armenia to utilise the UPR recommendations in order to coordinate CSOs’ activities with the UPR and ensure those stakeholders understand the core value of the mechanism: cooperation.

The meeting is part of a broader project meant to support all stakeholders during the UPR process. A second step, which should ideally take place shortly after the formal UPR report adoption scheduled for June 2015, will consist of a meeting focused on dialogue between government representatives and CSOs and will strongly focus on cooperation between all actors.

The February meeting was divided into three days. The first day was dedicated to debriefing about the UPR of Armenia that took place in January 2015 and to connecting the mechanism to other UN human rights mechanisms. The second and third day were dedicated to writing and discussing ways that recommendations could be implemented, as well as ways in which the civil society could support the

Armenian government in the implementation phase. Organisations outlined their UPR-related activities for the upcoming months and discussed how to support government representatives to achieve their objectives.

Overall, close to 70 civil society members participated. The participation of several additional NGOs, the representatives of the Ombudsman's office and two international experts was an initiative of *UPR Info*. The two international experts from Human Rights House Foundations (HRHF) and the Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR Centre) provided participants with information about the UN human rights system and how to create links between UPR recommendations to recommendations of other mechanisms, such as treaty bodies. Both NGOs work extensively with the UN human rights system. This was the first time that such a partnership between *UPR Info*, CCPR Centre and HRHF was undertaken.

Over the three-day meeting, the participants considered the UPR recommendations and learned about the opportunities the mechanism offered. They worked with many new partners and identified ways in which they could communicate and collaborate with the Government during the implementation period.

Press Conference

A press conference was organised by some partners with, in particular, the participation of Human Rights House Foundation and CCPR Centre, to discuss the outcomes of the three-day meeting as well as HRHF's and CCPR Centre's activities in Armenia. UPR Info, in order to maintain its neutrality vis-à-vis all stakeholders, did not take the floor to comment on the UPR process in Armenia.

1. Conceptual background

The most important measure of success of the UPR mechanism is whether or not the recommendations that the State under Review receives are implemented. Information from *UPR Info*'s publication "Beyond promises: the impact of the UPR on the ground" indicates that, in the first cycle, 48% of recommendations had triggered action by mid-term, 2.5 years after the UPR. In Armenia, a promising 73% of UPR recommendations had triggered action by mid-term (see *UPR Info*'s [Mid-term Implementation Assessment](#) on Armenia). This high level was underlined by *UPR Info* during the meeting. This high percentage is actually one of the reasons that led UPR Info to deepen its collaboration with all Armenian stakeholders.



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The Government is the main actor responsible for implementation; however, given the wide reach of UPR recommendations, national stakeholders must cooperate in order to ensure that implementation is as sustainable and effective as possible. This is the vision that guides *UPR Info's* long-term project in Armenia, of which the CSO Coordination Meeting that took place 9-11 February is part. The next meeting will include a dialogue between civil society and the Government.