



Promoting and strengthening
the Universal Periodic Review
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United Nations Human Rights Council: 26th Session
Oral statement Item 6 – General Debate
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Mr President,

The second UPR cycle reached its mid-term in April 2014. 98 States were reviewed for a second time in the UPR. *UPR Info* would like to underline some positive achievements in this regard.

Since the second UPR cycle has to focus on the implementation of recommendations, it is worth noting that 46 states published a mid-term report, including recently Finland, Morocco and Poland which reported for the second UPR cycle. The mid-term reporting fills a gap of 4,5 years between two reviews, allows civil society to engage with the government, and eventually helps the government to start concretely working on the implementation. We consider mid-term reports as key UPR element, so we take this opportunity to encourage states continuing to demonstrate their good faith by reporting at mid-term. We had recently the pleasure to see former HRC President H.E. Phuangketkeow presenting Thailand's mid-term report. Thailand is the first South East Asian country to provide such document, so we congratulate its dedication to show the way to neighbouring countries.

The number of mid-term reports submitted to the Council has dramatically increased: approximately half of the reports were so published during the last 20 months period. This positive trend testifies that States progressively see that their engagement in the Council requires reporting at mid-term.

Mr President,

According to our data, at mid-term, 40% of the UPR recommendations are fully or partially implemented by states. This number has been consistent for three years. This is definitely good news, which nevertheless should not obfuscate the challenges faced in implementing the recommendations. The lack of resources is an obstacle, but it can be mitigated with the voluntary fund dedicated to support the implementation. A more worrying trend that we brought to the attention of the Council many times, is the ambiguity or vagueness of some recommendations. In March, on behalf of 19 organisations, we called for a qualitative leap with regard to the precision of recommendations. We are moving on from speech to action, and later this year, we will organise a workshop on the role of "Recommending States". All Permanent Missions will be welcome to participate.

I thank you.