



Promoting and strengthening
the Universal Periodic Review
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United Nations Human Rights Council: 36th Session
Oral statement Item 6 – General Debate
***UPR Info* – 22 September 2017**

Mr President,

Since the inception of the UPR, action-oriented, specific recommendations have resulted in positive human rights change across the globe, including Australia adopting OPCAT, and Namibia rolling out free primary education. However, progress around the world has been uneven. Building on these positive results, it is important now to assess the impact of the UPR, to identify in each country the obstacles to implement the recommendations and define strategies to address them and improve the human rights situation for all groups of society. Such exercises must include time bound progress targets and have an inclusive approach that encourages partnerships with all national stakeholders.

Mr. President,

With the adoption of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, *UPR Info* sees a prime opportunity for States to utilise the SDGs as a driver for accelerating their human rights performance. Many SDG targets directly reflect elements of international human rights and labour standards. *UPR Info* increasingly draws on this link when supporting civil society, national human rights institutions and governments in the implementation phase.

States can synergise their efforts for the SDGs and UPR recommendations to include a holistic approach in their implementation, harnessing the scope of both mechanisms to catalyse the promotion of human rights in the 2030 Agenda. In integrating human rights and gender equality in the planning, implementation and follow-up of national action plans, States ensure that economic development is accompanied in equal measure by social progress and human development.

In the third cycle, we hope that increased attention to multi-stakeholder partnership, as well as the benefits of an integrated approach to the UPR and SDGs, will further bolster the positive impact of the UPR.

I thank you.