Webinar on Stakeholders’ Submission to the Universal Periodic Review 4th Cycle

South Africa-24th February 2022

CONCEPT NOTE

In 2006, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 60/251 to establish a Human Rights Council to promote universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. One of the main mandates of the Council is to undertake a Universal Periodic Review (UPR), on the fulfilment of each State's human rights obligations and commitments. The UPR is thus a unique human rights mechanism where each of the 193 UN Member States is subject to a peer review of its entire human rights record every four and a half years. States are required to provide information on the implementation of recommendations they have previously accepted, including voluntary commitments. The UPR is a cooperative process that requires the full participation of the State under review and complements the work of other human rights mechanisms such as the treaty bodies and the special procedures. The UPR is an important mechanism for advancing the realization of human rights at the national, regional and international levels.

South Africa’s human rights record was reviewed for the third time during the UPR Working group session in May 2017. On this occasion, 102 delegations made 243 recommendations to South Africa, which accepted 187. South Africa will be reviewed as part of the fourth cycle of the UPR in November 2022, during the 41st session of the UPR Working Group.

The proposed activity falls within the framework of OHCHR and UPR info’s engagement and support to national stakeholders in South Africa throughout the 4th cycle of the UPR.

Webinar on UPR reporting for CSOs and NHRI – 24 February 2022

The National Human Rights Institution and civil society organisations can inform the UPR process of a country by making written submission highlighting progress in the implementation of recommendations received during previous reviews and issues of concern. The deadline for stakeholders’ submission for the UPR 4th cycle is March 31st, 2022.

UPR Info, in collaboration with OHCHR Regional Office for Southern Africa and the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) is organizing a webinar to enable CSOs and the SAHRC to acquire the knowledge, methodology and tools needed to write a UPR report. Good practices in stakeholder’s submission will also be shared.

The specific objectives are:

- Introduce the UPR to organisations new to the mechanism.
- Explore the complementarity of the UPR with other human rights mechanisms.
- Explain the role of civil society organizations (CSOs) and national human rights institutions (NHRIs) within the UPR mechanism.
- Explain to participants the new guidelines for stakeholder submission for the UPR 4th cycle. Present to participants a reporting template to facilitate stakeholder submission
- Share good practices of CSOs engagement in the UPR process and in drafting stakeholders’ report.