



Ensuring sustainable implementation at the Universal Periodic Review:

An event to mark the end of the second cycle and prepare the third

Thursday 10 November 2016, Room XX, Palais des Nations

OUTCOMES

On Thursday 10th November, *UPR Info* hosted the event, Ensuring sustainable implementation at the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in Room XX of the *Palais des Nations*. Over sixty Permanent Missions and approximately 150 people attended the event co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Switzerland, Costa Rica, Morocco, and the United Kingdom. The event was also an opportunity to launch the newest *UPR Info*'s publication, "[The Butterfly Effect: Spreading Good Practices of UPR implementation](#)".

The panel, chaired by Roland Chauville, *UPR Info* Executive Director, was composed of delegates from the Permanent Mission of Morocco, Costa Rica and the United Kingdom, represented by H.E. Ambassador Mr. Mohamed Auajjar, H.E. Ms. Elayne G. Whyte Gomez and Mr. Bob Last, respectively, as well as Ms. Maria Luisa Silva, Director of the Geneva office at the United Nations Development Programme, Miloon Kothari, *UPR Info*'s President, and Pooja Patel from the International Service for Human Rights. The panel discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the UPR's two first cycles as well as the challenges for the third cycle.

The President of the Human Rights Council (HRC), Mr CHOI Kyonglim and Ms Kate Gilmore, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights took the floor to open the event, and H.E. Ambassador Mr Valentin Zellweger offered the concluding remarks.

Below is a summary of the key outcomes of the event.

1. Lessons learnt from the first and second cycle of the UPR

Strengths

- The UPR has led to transparent dialogue between States and the common documents, upon which the reviews are based, ensure the equal treatment of States through the mechanism;
- The UPR has caused a cultural shift in the United Nations (UN) that encourages State cooperation and constructive criticism without hostility or negativity;
- The UPR has legitimised CSOs and NHRIs as genuine stakeholders of the mechanism, not solely during the compilation of reports but as equal partners in implementation and monitoring;
- The UPR clearly indicates the interdependency and indivisibility of human rights and has caused States to make strong commitments to, and respect for, human rights;
- The UPR bridges the political commitment to human rights with technical support for implementation and global acknowledgement of, and pressure for, progress;
- UPR recommendations take priority when designing development programmes - as a strategic entry point for development agencies - and the mechanism ensures States take a human rights based approach to development.

Weaknesses

- The lack of effective follow-up and reporting mechanisms at the UN leads to ineffective implementation;
- There is a lack of appropriate human rights infrastructures, in many States, that would enable effective engagement with received recommendations and the lack of UPR penetration into line ministries also hinders implementation;
- There is a lack of accountability for non-cooperation and non-implementation and there is no process in place for situations of human rights regression;
- The instances of reprisals and lack of protection for human rights defenders delegitimizes the entire mechanism;
- There is limited comprehensive integration with other human rights processes;
- The quantity of recommendations makes implementation difficult for all stakeholders of the UPR;

- Civil society often lacks the resources and funds to sustain their work and coalitions on the UPR;
- There is a gap in engagement of parliamentarians and wider society in the UPR.

2. Next steps to ensure sustainable implementation in the UPR 3rd cycle

- Voluntary reporting, at mid-term, should be increasingly used;
- Reporting should take into account previous recommendations;
- Ensuring national ownership is key to the UPRs success, including through the improved participation of NHRIs, CSOs, OHCHR Country Teams;
- Role of the parliament is key as they must translate international commitments into national laws and policies;
- Completely integrate the UPR with Vision 2030, SDGs, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and other treaty bodies and special procedures;
- HRC President should follow-up with States under Review on key issues, for example reprisals;
- Item 6 general debate could be used to follow-up with countries on certain issues such as slow or unclear implementation;
- Visibility of the UPR needs to be maintained as well as the interest of ministries;
- Recommendations should be clustered with other treaty bodies and special procedures recommendations;
- An implementation fund for CSOs could be developed, as they must be seen as partners to governments, in implementation.