

## UPR INFO PRE-SESSIONS 38

UPR Info is organising UPR Pre-sessions during the week of **22 March 2021** (exact dates TBC). These meetings will take place in advance of the 38<sup>th</sup> UPR Working Group and will include sessions on the following countries: [Belgium](#), [Denmark](#), [Estonia](#), [Latvia](#), [Mozambique](#), [Namibia](#), [Niger](#), [Palau](#), [Paraguay](#), [Seychelles](#), [Sierra Leone](#), [Singapore](#), [Solomon Islands](#), and [Somalia](#). Exceptionally, **the Pre-sessions will take place in a virtual format.**

### OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Pre-sessions is to offer Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) an opportunity to brief permanent delegations on the human rights situation in the States under Review. They provide space for civil society to engage directly in a dialogue with States, ensuring that their suggestions and recommendations are taken into consideration by Recommending States in advance of the Working Group.

### FORMAT

The Pre-sessions are organized approximately one month prior to the UPR Working Group session. Considering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, UPR Info has taken the decision to hold Pre-sessions 38 in a virtual format. CSOs and NHRIs will be invited to present their assessment of the human rights situation in the country since the previous review in a **pre-recorded video and will participate in a live question and answer session** with Recommending States following a screening of the statements.

With the principles of **transparency and universality** in mind, all Permanent Missions are invited, including the State under Review.

### EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Pre-sessions will offer an exchange of information on the human rights situation of the forthcoming State under Review. States will receive **up-to-date information and recommendations in advance of the 38<sup>th</sup> UPR Working Group session. Recommending States will also have the opportunity to ask questions of NHRI and civil society representatives to gain insight on the situation on the ground from a first-hand perspective.** The information given will reflect the reality of the human rights situation in the country under review and will represent the concerns of all stakeholders on the ground.

### WHAT TO EXPECT

The Pre-Sessions are a **forum for collaboration and information sharing.** The meetings fill an expressed need from both State delegations and CSOs to meet prior to the UPR Working Group session to identify, discuss, and further develop recommendations to ensure focused attention to the most relevant human rights issues during the Review.

To apply to speak at the Pre-sessions, please fill out an [application form](#) via Jotform. Only complete applications received by 23h59 CET on Friday, 8 January 2021 will be considered.

For a comprehensive overview of the event, applicants are invited to consult [UPR Info Pre-sessions: Empowering human rights voices from the ground.](#)

For more information on the Pre-sessions and UPR Info, please visit our website at [www.upr-info.org](http://www.upr-info.org).

### UPR INFO

UPR Info is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in Geneva, Switzerland. The organisation aims at both raising awareness and providing capacity-building tools all UPR stakeholders, including UN Member States, CSOs, and NHRIs. UPR Info is the first NGO entirely dedicated to the UPR.

Since the inception of the UPR mechanism in April 2008, the organisation has developed a unique expertise on the process itself. This knowledge is widely recognised by stakeholders, notably by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). UPR Info is regularly invited to participate in conferences and to provide training on the UPR.

UPR Info's [website](#) and [database](#) are the first source of information on the UPR for stakeholders, including Geneva-based permanent missions as well as national and international CSOs, providing them with useful tools for their participation in the UPR mechanism.

Established in February 2008, UPR Info's current President is Mr. Miloon Kothari, former UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing.