

UPR INFO PRE-SESSIONS 39

UPR Info is organising UPR Pre-sessions during the week of **4 October 2021** (exact dates TBC). These meetings will take place in advance of the 39th UPR Working Group and will include sessions on the following countries: [Antigua and Barbuda](#), [Eswatini](#), [Greece](#), [Hungary](#), [Ireland](#), [Papua New Guinea](#), [Saint Vincent and the Grenadines](#), [Samoa](#), [Sudan](#), [Suriname](#), [Tajikistan](#), [Tanzania](#), [Thailand](#), and [Trinidad and Tobago](#). **Exceptionally, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, 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. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, UPR Info will host Pre-sessions 39 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 39th 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.

The application process to speak at the Pre-sessions will be launched on UPR Info's website www.upr-info.org on 7 June 2021. Applicants will be required to fill out an [application form](#), providing information on their engagement in the promotion of human rights.

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.

UPR INFO

UPR Info is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in Geneva, Switzerland. The organisation aims at promoting human rights through the UPR. It raises awareness and provides capacity-building tools to 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.