

# UPR Info Annual Report 2020



UPR  
INFO



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# Introduction

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## Challenges. Opportunities. Resilience.

These three words characterize UPR Info for the year 2020.

The Covid-19 pandemic impacted the way the organisation operates, canceling in-person interactions with human rights defenders while expanding outreach to civil society actors around a virtually connected world. UPR Info seized the challenges posed by the pandemic to reflect on the most effective way to deliver its programmatic activities and started laying the groundwork for a digital transformation. This encompasses the revamp of UPR Info's website as a gateway to ensure an access to information for all UPR stakeholders and the development of an e-learning platform with state-of-the-art educational and innovative learning tools.

UPR Info remained devoted to supporting civil society, many of whom were affected not only by the sanitary crisis but also by the restrictions that followed as governments attempted to address the pandemic. In many countries, civil society space was diminished, and the rights of vulnerable groups were exacerbated by inadequate capacities to respond to this unprecedented situation. To meet the evolving needs of stakeholders, UPR Info adapted its activities to a virtual format, engaging in an online policy dialogue, offering a virtual advocacy platform, and delivering training in a virtual or hybrid format. The organisation successfully organized two series of UPR Pre-session meetings, ensuring that the critical voices of human rights defenders continued to inform the interactive dialogue at the UPR Working Group. In 2020, UPR Info supported the engagement of over 1200 stakeholders in the UPR process, providing them with tools to strengthen human rights in their country at every stage of the UPR cycle.

2020 also saw two major projects materialize at UPR Info. The organisation launched its new database of UPR recommendations, adding new features to optimize user experience and expanding access to francophone users. UPR Info also launched its guide to child participation in the UPR in collaboration with Child Rights Connect following regional consultations with child and youth advocates, consolidating its pilot project in support of child and youth human rights advocacy. Throughout, mainstreaming a gender and human rights-based approach have remained a priority and are now well integrated in the work of the organisation.

All of this was made possible thanks to the extraordinary commitments of the UPR Info team, the agility of the organisation to respond to challenges, the support of our donors and the full engagement of our local partners.

# 01 Policy and Advocacy Programme

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The Policy and Advocacy Programme supports the engagement of civil society organisations (CSOs) and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in the UPR by providing them with tools and opportunities to conduct advocacy activities. Through the Pre-sessions Project, the Programme provides these stakeholders with an international, high-profile platform to advocate directly to States in advance of the UPR Working Group. Training and awareness-raising campaigns underpin the Pre-sessions and are developed and delivered within the context of the Programme to ensure that other stakeholders are equipped with the capacity to conduct effective advocacy throughout the UPR cycle. From a policy perspective, the Programme contributes to collaborative and constructive dialogue on the role of the UPR in the improvement of human rights, inline with the objective, transparent, and non-politicized nature of the mechanism.



## 1.1 The Pre-sessions

Since their inception in 2012, the Pre-sessions have remained a reliable source of first-hand information for Recommending States to develop the recommendations that they will present at the UPR Working Group. The meetings are an opportunity for CSOs and NHRIs to engage in a dialogue with states prior to the Review, with the aim of ensuring that recommendations accurately reflect the human rights landscape in the State under Review.

The global health crisis has underlined the importance of the Pre-sessions in empowering the voices of CSOs and NHRIs at the UPR. Taking on a virtual format, the meetings have continued to provide other stakeholders with a platform to share up-to-date information on the human rights situation in their country. This has been critical as the Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated human rights concerns and created a challenging environment for UPR stakeholders to access information on the human rights situation on the ground. In 2020, the Policy and Advocacy Programme hosted two virtual Pre-sessions in advance of UPR Working Group 36 and 37, with positive results:

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**92 representatives of national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and 15 NHRI representatives took the floor at the Pre-sessions, including two youth speakers.**

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**Of the 28 States under Review at the UPR in 2020, 25 were examined during the Pre-sessions.**

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**The meetings enjoyed a high rate of attendance on behalf of States, with an average of 29 representatives from permanent missions present per meeting.**

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**Demonstrating a willingness to collaborate with other stakeholders in the review process, 20 States took the floor at their own Pre-session to briefly report on the human rights situation in their country.**



In advance of each Pre-session, CSOs and NHRIs were provided with a series of online training sessions targeting different aspects of the UPR. The training provided participants with the tools required to effectively engage in the mechanism not only during the Pre-sessions, but also throughout the UPR cycle. This included an introduction to the UPR and the Pre-sessions, UPR advocacy, and implementation and monitoring strategies for the follow-up phase. The online format allowed the Programme to extend its reach to participants who may not have been able to travel to Geneva to receive training in-person. Overall, 119 representatives of civil society participated in 8 training sessions in 2020.

Continuing to prioritize support for national civil society organisations in their UPR advocacy, the Policy and Advocacy Programme also hosted three in-country Pre-sessions in Lebanon, Liberia, and Mauritania, respectively. These meetings were held in cooperation with local partners, and brought together CSOs, NHRIs, and representatives from the Embassies of Recommending States. The Pre-sessions allowed for wider outreach to civil society at the national level in the target countries, and through training programs raised awareness of the UPR mechanism and entry points for advocacy throughout the cycle. In total, 30 national CSO and NHRI representatives participated in 3 panel discussions. In addition, the Programme hosted 14 training sessions on the UPR and advocacy strategies, which were attended by 64 members of national CSOs and NHRIs.

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***“ [The Pre-sessions were] a great experience...It has helped me understand the advocacy process better and will be prepared for future engagements.”***

CSO representative and Pre-sessions 36 speaker

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Ensuring gender diversity at the Pre-sessions is crucial to providing marginalized groups with an opportunity to inform the recommendations made by states at the UPR. As these stakeholders can become even more vulnerable during a pandemic, applying a gender lens to the Pre-sessions was critical in 2020. During this period, 55% of panelists were women, a reflection of UPR Info's efforts to systematically integrate

a gender perspective at its Pre-sessions and to ensure that gender balance and diversity is represented. Overall, 238 of the recommendations made at the Pre-sessions in Geneva were reiterated at the Working Group using identical or similar language. At the in-country Pre-sessions (Lebanon, Liberia, and Mauritania), 21 of the recommendations made by panellists were reiterated at the Working Group.

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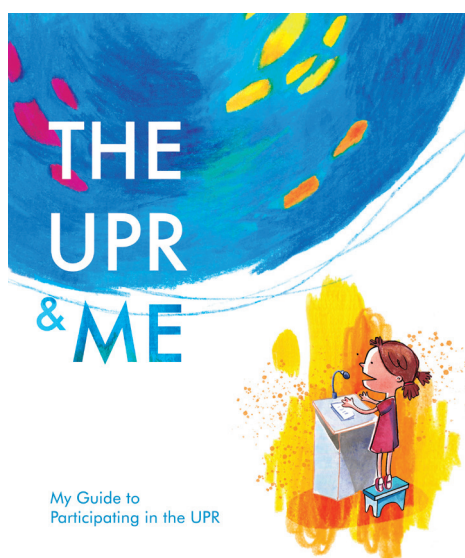
## 1.2 Child Participation

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Although there are many examples of good practice related to the inclusion of child rights in the UPR, child participation in the mechanism is almost entirely adult-led. Levels of youth engagement remain low and there is very little child-friendly, accessible information to ensure children can learn about and take part in the process.

Recognizing these gaps, UPR Info, in collaboration with Child Rights Connect, developed a child-friendly guide to the UPR. The goal was to help raise awareness and understanding

of the mechanism among children and to empower them to engage throughout the cycle. In 2020, over 140 children engaged in regional consultations, taking part in an online survey and small focus groups. The design and content were shaped by their inputs, and the Guide was officially launched in December 2020. Going forward, the Guide will be provided to all child participants at the Pre-sessions in order to prepare them for UPR advocacy, and it is publicly available on UPR Info's website as a tool to empower children and youth to engage in the mechanism.




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***“ The UPR is not an event, it is a process and a platform to be used by children to change their life. Having the guide on the UPR written in a child-friendly way was a necessity for children to be able to use the UPR.”***

Child advocate from Albania

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### 1.3 Policy

The long-term efficiency dialogue of the Human Rights Council (HRC) continued in 2020 and UPR Info remained engaged in the discussions related to the UPR. During informal consultations on strengthening and optimizing the UPR in November 2020, UPR Info stressed that any changes to the mechanism must balance efficiency with effectiveness. Indeed, a key strength of the UPR lies in the space provided for all stakeholders to engage in national consultations on the status of recommendations prior to the adoption of the final report at the HRC. These discussions

can pave the way for inclusive implementation during the follow-up phase and proposed efficiency measures must not jeopardize the space allocated for this dialogue by the institution-building package.

UPR Info remains committed to promoting the UPR at the HRC, and in 2020 the organisation was active in

delivering and co-sponsoring statements at the General Debate under Item 6. In line with UPR Info's efforts to contribute to a discussion on the role of civil society, the organisation delivered an oral statement at HRC 43 calling on States to continue to protect civic space and to encourage an inclusive approach to the implementation of UPR recommendations. This subject was also addressed through a joint statement at HRC 44 which was co-sponsored by UPR Info and led by the core group on civil society space (Chile, Ireland, Japan, Sierra Leone and Tunisia). The statement drew attention to persistent concerns for civil society, including diversity of participation, reprisals, and the use of legal measures to restrict activity, and acknowledged the challenges to civil society participation posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Continuing to highlight the effects of the pandemic, UPR Info encouraged States at HRC 45 to report on actions taken to improve those human rights that have been exacerbated by the pandemic, ensuring that ac-

tions and legislation are constructed based on the needs of rights-holders. As a co-signatory of a joint statement on the World Programme for Human Rights Education, UPR Info joined other NGOs in urging States to act towards a meaningful and inclusive implementation of the Plan of Action at the national level.

UPR Info also participated in consultations on the HRC's contribution to the prevention of human rights violations which led to a resolution adopted during the 45<sup>th</sup> session in October 2020 by a recorded vote of 32 States. This demonstration of support reaffirms the role of the UPR in the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as in the prevention of human rights violations (<https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/RES/45/31>).

Another positive achievement at the policy level was the adoption at HRC 45 of the resolution entitled "Promoting and protecting the human rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325." The resolution was adopted by consensus and cosponsored by 66 States. (<https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/RES/45/28>). It recognizes and vindicates women and women's organisations as agents of peace and of policy-making in conflict resolution. This was the first time that a resolution encouraged States to bear the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda in mind in relation to the UPR. Thus, States are invited not only to make recommendations on these issues, but also to include WPS themes in their national reports.

Finally, as a means to raising awareness of the mechanism and to keep all stakeholders informed of related developments, UPR Info provided live updates of the 35<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> sessions of the UPR Working Group as well as on the adoption of the UPR Working Group reports at the 43<sup>rd</sup>, 44<sup>th</sup>, and 45<sup>th</sup> HRC sessions.



# 02 The Stakeholders Programme

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The pandemic presented unprecedented challenges to the Stakeholders Programme, requiring a reassessment of the needs of national and international actors in the first quarter of 2020 to ensure the effective implementation of activities. Although the development of new priorities was required to respond to the changes in the global environment, two key objectives remained the same:

1. Support key UPR stakeholders to promote an effective implementation of human rights recommendations by developing tailored tools and organizing capacity building activities.
2. Increase strategic communications and partnerships to engage more people in the promotion and protection of human rights through the UPR.

The impact of Covid-19 restrictions on the human rights landscape highlighted importance of providing support to civil society during this unstable time. For this reason, UPR Info organized a series of virtual roundtables for CSOs and NHRIs to exchange information on the impact of the pandemic on human rights and to share good practices on facing the emergency. Covid-19 led to the suspension of face-to-face capacity building activities to stakeholders visiting Geneva for the HRC, UPR, and the Treaty Bodies, including CSOs, NHRIs representatives, and parliamentarians. As a result, the Stakeholders Programme undertook more remote management and delivery of UPR-related training. The new methodologies, tested during the early months of the pandemic, allowed the Programme to provide practical and technical expertise to UPR stakeholders. Allowing for a wider outreach in programmatic implementation, these creative virtual solutions will be permanently integrated into UPR Info's work.



## 2.1 Civil Society Organisations

In 2020, UPR Info continued to provide strategic support to CSOs in the promotion of human rights through the UPR. The organisation conducted specific trainings sessions online for human rights defenders and CSOs from Niger and Kenya. Thanks to partnerships with Geneva-based organisations including the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), the Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR), and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), UPR Info shared knowledge on how to conduct strategic advocacy and submit UPR reports with CSOs from Myanmar, Tanzania, Liberia, Brazil, Mexico, Nepal, Hungary, Mexico, Nepal, Hungary,

Botswana, Kenya, Egypt, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua. In addition, tailored training sessions for young human rights defenders from Algeria, France Benin, Guinea, Mali, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, and Togo were held in partnership with the Centre de conseils et d'appui pour les jeunes en matière de droits de l'homme (CODAP).

*"The presentation by UPR Info was the most relevant and practical for our work."*

*HRD from Nicaragua*

### Capacity Building Activities Stakeholders Programme

We trained:

105  
CSOs

32 members of  
NHRIs

138 Students

43 Media



Given the impediments to conducting in-person training sessions, UPR Info increased distance-learning by facilitating online webinars specifically to support HRDs and representa-

tives of NGOs and NHRIs to optimize the submission of “Other Stakeholders” reports and UPR mid-term reports.

**UPR Info's Webinars**

  
  
**Languages**

  
**7 sessions  
in 2020**

  
**250  
participants**

## 2.2 States

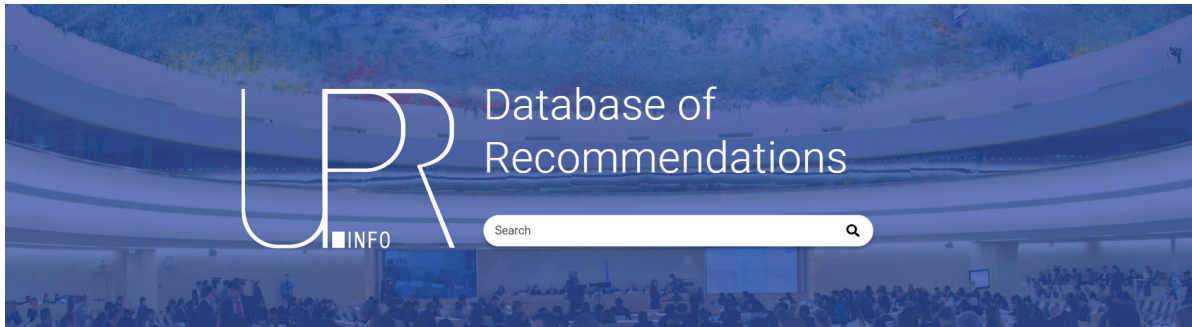
In 2020, UPR Info provided technical support to States, both in their capacity as States under Review and as Recommending States.

In advance of the UPR of Liberia, State delegates participated in a UPR simulation exercise of the interactive dialogue organized by UPR Info. The exercise consisted of an orientation session focusing on the format of the Review followed by a simulation activity that draws on suggested recommendations contained in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' (OHCHR) Summary of stakeholders' information, advanced questions submitted by Recommending States, and/or recommendations raised during UPR Info's Pre-sessions to create a mock-up of the Review. In January 2020, UPR Info held a seminar for Recommending States to equip human rights experts from Permanent Missions with the tools and knowledge to successfully engage in the Working Group session.

The 36<sup>th</sup> UPR Working Group highlighted the mechanism's role in monitoring new developments (including how this impacts the implementation of recommendations made in previous cycles) and issuing relevant recommendations towards the realization of human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), even in times of pandemic. It also brought out the UPR's potential in terms of sharing of lessons learned and best practices and promoting inter-state cooperation. Seizing the momentum of the Working Group, UPR Info, in partnership with the OHCHR, organized a virtual dialogue on the potential of the UPR to contribute to the improvement of human rights during the pandemic. The online debate took place following the 36<sup>th</sup> Working Group session and offered a unique occasion for States to reflect on how the mechanism can effectively contribute to a post-pandemic recovery.

## 2.3 New Tools

The Stakeholders Programme provides support to UPR Info's programmes and develops new tools to respond to the needs of UPR stakeholders.



### **The Revamp of UPR Info's Database: Smarter software for more efficient human rights work.**

It is important that recommendations from the UPR are made available to human rights advocates in a timely fashion so that they can monitor the changes in the human rights situation in their countries.

Until 2020, updating the database required UPR Info's staff to visit the OHCHR website periodically, check for new reports and, working across word documents and spreadsheets, copy the recommendations; log the related details like countries involved, date and response; and then scrutinize the substance to decide the thematic issue being addressed as well as the type and specificity of action being recommended. All in all, the process for one UPR session would take nearly two months to complete.

With three UPR Working Groups taking place each year, 42 countries under review during each session, and each country receiving approximately 230 recommendations, the workload was immense. Thanks to the partnership established with Huridocs in 2019, UPR Info revamped its Database of UPR Recommendations and Voluntary Pledges to allow the team to work more efficiently, ensuring that the database is always up-to-date with the latest documentation from the UPR. Machine learning features have been integrated into the database, providing highly accurate suggestions for how to categorize information. UPR Info's refreshed Database is

built on Uwazi, offering users a better, more up-to-date data, and more robust analysis, as well as expanding from the English language to include French.

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*“When you allow people to have access to information, you empower them.”*

*Nicoletta Zappile, UPR Info*

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Thanks to the support of a group of Google.org Fellows working in collaboration with Huridocs, UPR Info was able to benefit from the skills in software engineering, product management and user experience design and facilitated the work on the database. Machine learning algorithms are integrated into the database: one smart feature skims through the content and extracts the recommendations and their related metadata, and another looks through the language and makes suggestions for how to categorize the recommendations by topic and type of action.

These algorithms have a high degree of accuracy, but UPR Info staff still retains control over whether to accept suggestions and if and when to publish them to the database. This human input is not just necessary for ensuring the accuracy of the collection itself — it is also how these features learn to return more accurate results in the future.



By keeping the collection up-to-date, human rights advocates have more time to act and to play the role of watchdog. UPR recommendations represent advocacy tools for the promotion and protection of human rights.

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*“Many human rights organisations share UPR Info’s predicament. Their human talent is consumed by tedious and mechanical tasks that could be addressed by automated algorithms, leaving the actual substance of the work for human experts.”*

*HURIDOCS Chief Technology Officer Jaume Cardona.*

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**Measuring UPR Recommendations.** Following requests to receive technical support on the implementation of UPR recommendations from CSOs, UPR Info finalized a new curriculum on human rights monitoring for the UPR. Effective monitoring of the human rights situation in a given context requires indicators that indicate the degree to which human rights are being upheld. With the support of Aurora consulting, UPR Info adapted the conceptual framework developed by the OHCHR to the UPR recommendations. The curriculum was developed with a participatory and inclusive approach, testing the methodology to identify contextually relevant indicators for measuring human rights in different capacity building activities conducted in 2019.

The capacity building activities were developed and implemented in consultation with CSOs and NHRIs, not only in their capacity as beneficiaries but also as key actors contributing to the elaboration of effective strategies with the aim of ensuring maximum impact. Working closely with local actors ensured that the curriculum focused on the priorities of national actors.

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*“Human rights can never be fully measured in statistics; the qualitative aspects are too essential. ...The challenge is to develop a know-how on how to plan, to assemble the data, to organize them meaningfully and to present and disseminate them properly...”*

*Thomas Hammarberg, human rights defender.*

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The Stakeholders Programme is committed to continuing to do what UPR Info does best – providing training and technical support to key UPR stakeholders and promoting and protecting human rights through the UPR - while continuing to expand its reach and strengthen partnerships.

Strong partnerships with other NGOs and international organisations are an essential tool for achieving impact. In 2020, UPR Info strengthened its partnerships in Geneva by continuing to collaborate closely with international organisations such as the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), UN agencies such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the

OHCHR, and NGOs such as the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, CIVICUS, the International Catholic Center of Geneva, and Child Rights Connect.

Partnerships also contribute to raising awareness on the potential of the mechanism. Participating in the roundtable “Interdependencies between Water and Sanitation and Other Human Rights,” organized by the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council and the OHCHR, UPR Info stressed the importance of monitoring and reporting, and of maximizing use of the mechanism in parallel to the Voluntary National Reviews held at the High-Level Political Forum to leave no one behind in the exercise of the human rights to water and sanitation (SDG 6) and all interrelated human rights.



Partnering with other NGOs can also create opportunities to raise awareness among the international community on how specific issues and new human rights challenges can be effectively addressed through the UPR. For example, UPR Info participated in an online discussion on the key human rights concerns related to nationality deprivation practices, which offered the possibility to inform Recommending States on how to use the UPR Working Group to draw attention to the serious human rights consequences of deprivation of nationality and how to make relevant recommendations. UPR Info also co-sponsored an event on the “UPR and the Environment”, organized by CIEL, Amnesty International and the Permanent Missions of the European Union and of Slovenia, respectively, to encourage a more adequate and systematic inclusion of environment and climate change related issues and recommendations in the UPR.

In 2020, UPR Info reconfirmed its partnership with academic institutions in Geneva. During the second edition of “The UPR and the UN Human Rights System: Raising the Bar on Accountability,” a training course organized by the Geneva Academy, UPR Info shared best practices and tools on UPR implementation with members of NGOs, research institutes, UN agencies, NHRI members and representatives of governments and academia.

To enable local academics to achieve a better understanding of the UN human rights system as a means to fostering a more open human rights discourse in environments where censorship may be a problem, UPR Info participated in the initiative of the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR), in cooperation with the Geneva Academy. To this end, UPR Info contributed through training sessions that involve both theoretical and practical insights aimed at creating an ownership of UN recommendations providing practical training targeted for academics primarily from China, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Iran.



## AT A GLANCE

### 2.4 NHRIs and their Role in the UPR Process

The challenges brought about by the pandemic have placed a strain on the respect of human rights standards and the delivery of the SDGs. NHRIs are well placed to guide these efforts and to enhance the trust and legitimacy that are needed to 'build back better'. As part of its commitment to supporting the engagement of NHRIs in the UPR, UPR Info participated in the webinar organized by the Danish Institute for Human Rights to highlight practical experiences and efforts on how UPR recommendations can help guide relevant COVID-19 response and recovery, taking into account the international human rights obligations and SDG commitments held by States.

NHRIs play a vital role in holding States accountable between examinations through monitoring the implementation of recommendations. In February 2020, in partnership with Aurora Consulting and the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) in Ghana, UPR Info organized a two-day training for members of the Commission and national representatives of civil society. The workshop focused on the role of indicators in monitoring human rights progress and the implementation of human rights commitments, and how to identify and contextualize these indicators. In response to UPR Info's follow-up survey, all participants reported that they were satisfied with the







In addition to engagement with NHRIs, UPR Info facilitated a webinar session on the UPR organized by the European Network of Equality Bodies. During the panel discussion, UPR Info shared different approaches that equality bodies can undertake to engage more effectively with the UPR mechanism and increase their impact in the promotion of equality and non-discrimination in Europe. The organisation also presented examples of best practices to monitor and support the implementation of UPR recommendations.

methodology used during the training sessions. The workshop was conducted in a participatory manner in order to facilitate the exchange of best practices and experiences among the participants as well as fostering an interactive dialogue during the sessions. Reflecting on the participatory methodology, one participant noted that, “the group exercises allowed me to better understand what I learnt and apply it to the actual UPR recommendations.”

## 2.5 Parliamentarians as Advocates for Human Rights

Parliaments are a critical oversight body of the State with the capacity to hold governments accountable for their human rights commitments and to the 2030 Agenda. As such, it is crucial to engage parliamentarians in the UPR process. To achieve this objective, UPR Info has participated in several initiatives including a virtual panel discussion organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union. During the event, members of Parliament from Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin

America shared experiences, good practices, and tools as to how they can contribute to and accelerate efforts towards realizing the good governance ambitions of SDG16 in accordance with human rights recommendations, including those formulated in the framework of the UPR. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many of the activities organized with Parliamentarians were unfortunately postponed until 2021.

## 2.6 Promoting Youth Rights through the UPR

There is a growing attention to youth participation in decision-making processes as well as to the recognition of the importance of their role in the promotion of human rights. In 2020, UPR Info organized information sessions on the UPR with students enrolled in the International Relations and Human Rights Programmes of the University of Geneva and the University of Padua (Italy).



UPR Info also participated in a training programme for Australian high school students on how to effectively engage in the UPR of their country through targeted advocacy strategies. The students researched a series of recommendations on the topics of climate change, asylum seekers and refugees, and domestic violence, and presented their findings to the Permanent Missions of 12 UN Member States in a series of virtual meetings. Many of these recommendations were formulated by Recommending States during the interactive dialogue at the UPR Working Group.

*“I enjoyed how students, like myself, were able to engage in an experience that was not only filled with learning and good food but had an important and tangible impact on Australia seen through the UPR in January.”*

*Australian high school student*

In 2020, UPR Info has supported the third edition of the Model UPR organized by the students of the Human Rights and Multi-Level Governance Programme at Padua University. More than 30 international students from 16 countries gathered virtually in a structured role play that simulated the different steps in the preparation and execution of the UPR.



Students were assigned to roles as the various stakeholders of the UPR process: representatives of the delegations of the States under Review, representatives from Recommending States and the Troika, and members of NHRIs and civil society. The simulation also integrated UPR Info's Pre-sessions model, to ensure the representation of civil society. The Model UPR has been a very successful activity, allowing young students to better understand the functioning of one of the most complex human rights mechanisms while strengthening their negotiation, public speaking, and advocacy skills.



## 2.7 Applying a Gender Lens

**UPR** 25 November- 10 December

**International Campaign against Gender-Based Violence**

"Peace is not just the absence of war. Many women under lockdown for #COVID19 face violence where they should be safest: in their own homes. Today, I appeal for peace in homes around the world. I urge all governments to put women's safety first as they respond to the pandemic"  
 António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General

Best Practices Reported by States during the 36th UPR WG to End Gender-Based Violence during the Covid-19 Pandemic

**Panama**

Regarding the incidence of domestic violence in connection with the effects of COVID-19, Panama reported that a Specialized Police Service on Gender Violence developed various activities aimed at raising awareness among people in different communities, including various specific training sessions.

**Jamaica**

Jamaica is setting up regional shelters that will provide a safe-haven for women fleeing situations of domestic abuse. In addition to being the first child-friendly centre, when fully optimized, these shelters will also offer a range of counselling, reintegration and training support services to victims.

**Libya**

Libya established an emergency committee and allocated sufficient budgets to confront the epidemic. It set up health isolation centers in all municipalities, and provided all the requirements that ensure the containment of the epidemic and mitigate its effects, including violence against women.

**Liberia**

Liberia introduced a Roadmap on Ending Sexual and Gender Based Violence (2020-22).

**FACTS**

- 1 in 3 women and girls experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, most frequently by an intimate partner.
- Emerging data shows an increase in calls to domestic violence helplines in many countries since the outbreak of COVID-19.
- Only 52% of women married or in a union freely make their own decisions about sexual relations, contraceptive use, and health care.
- 71% of all human trafficking victims worldwide are women and girls, and 3 out of 4 of these women and girls are sexually exploited.

Source: UN Women

Follow us:

[www.upr-info.org](http://www.upr-info.org)

UPR Info is committed to promoting gender equality in accordance with HRC Resolution 6/30, which states that a gender perspective be included at all stages of the Review. The organisation incorporates a gender analysis in its daily work, encouraging the application of a gender-lens from the preparation of the Review through to the implementation phase of the UPR process throughout its programmatic activities.

For the third year, the organisation participated in the 16 Days of activism against gender-based violence campaign, organising a social media campaign to provide good practices on how UPR recommendations have contributed to achieve women's rights and eliminate gender-based violence. A special focus was placed on the challenges raised by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ahead of the joint International Gender Champions and UN Women event, "Moving the Needle: How to Improve Parental Leave Policies in the UN System" held in July 2020, UPR info participated in the social media campaign #ChampionsforParentalLeave. Executive Director Mona M'Bikay also produced a short video to raise awareness of the importance of parental leave in supporting women's careers, realizing gender equality, and accelerating gender parity within the UN.



# 03 In-Country Programme

In 2020, the In-Country Programme (ICP) entered a new phase. The three-year programme (2020-2022) is built on the previous model and the results of its evaluation (2017-2019). The new phase adapts and strengthens some of the previous components, especially in the monitoring and follow-up phase of the UPR. It also aims at creating additional space for national consultations in advance of the Review as well as multi-stakeholder discussions on implementation after the Review. Designed before the pandemic, the new phase of the programme already included remote support (through webinars) in between face-to-face activities to ensure continuous and comprehensive support to stakeholders in the target countries.

The Programme aims to equip governments, parliamentarians, NHRIs, and civil society including, youth, women, and vulnerable groups with the knowledge and tools to effectively engage in the UPR process. ICP provides support to national and local institutions to enhance inclusive and democratic societies. The UPR, which addresses all human rights issues, can be used as the driving force to address questions of shrinking democratic space for individuals and CSOs. Through its revamped five-step programme, ICP has systematically integrated a human rights-based approach to its work, in addition to applying a gender-lens to promote the empowerment of women and girls. The activities pursue the following two specific objectives:

1. To increase quality information on the progress and challenges of the UPR implementation in the target countries
2. To trigger dialogue among groups of stakeholders on the human rights situation of the country through the UPR mechanism

All planned activities in target countries were impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ivory Coast, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Guinea, Georgia Kyrgyzstan, and Nepal). Travel and sanitary restrictions made it challenging to conduct in-person activities, and the postponement of the 36<sup>th</sup> UPR Working Group session to October 2020 created additional restrictions and a shift in the timing of activities. This had a particular impact on Step 1 (submission of “other stakeholders” reports), Step 2 (UPR advocacy), and Step 3 (development of action strategies).

Challenges related to the Covid-19 pandemic were compounded by unstable socio-political situations in some target countries, creating an added layer of difficulty for the safe implementation of activities. A national referendum, in addition to parliamentary and presidential elections, challenged the development of activities in Guinea. In Ivory Coast, pre- and post-election violence and insecurity made it difficult to organise activities from May to December 2020. In Georgia, two rounds of parliamentary elections took place on 31 October and 21 November 2020 and led to massive street protests during these two months. The ICP activities organized in Kyrgyzstan took place during a period of deep political and social crisis due to the aftermath of parliamentary elections.

To deliver planned activities despite these constraints, the ICP team had to be innovative and adapt to the constantly changing situation in each country. Whenever the context and timing allowed, activities were delivered in a hybrid matter; otherwise, they were conducted online. In either case, the ICP team developed a “training of trainers” (ToT) approach, training implementing partners and focal points on content prior to the activities. The ToT approach has allowed for effective trainings while empowering partners in Nepal, Georgia, Cambodia, and Kyrgyzstan. To compensate the lack in-person presence and group work, the ICP team has considerably increased its remote support through various trainings planned over time.

## ICP 5-Step Engagement Approach

- 

**1 UPR Stakeholders Submission**  
To enhance the quality of stakeholders' submissions and suggested UPR recommendations in an inclusive manner. UPR Info also offers support in the organisation of national consultations
- 

**2 In-Country National Pre-session**  
To replicate the Geneva-based Pre-session at the national level in order to amplify the voice of CSOs and NHRI. The platform facilitates exchange between the diplomatic community and local CSOs on human rights concerns.
- 

**3 UPR Strategy Workshop**  
To share the outcomes of the review with national CSOs and NHRIs and to develop an action strategy outlining how stakeholders can support the government in implementing recommendations. This workshop is supported by advocacy sessions and an introduction to the role of Parliaments in the UPR.
- 

**4 Multi-stakeholder engagement**  
To provide support to the Government and other stakeholders in developing an action plan for the implementation of UPR recommendations by utilising human rights indicators and a cooperative approach. The technical support is divided into two phases to allow a follow-up or progress made yearly.
- 

**5 Mid-term Reporting**  
To support national stakeholders in taking stock of implementation halfway between one review and the next, with a view towards introducing solutions to overcome gaps in implementation via the drafting of a report and updating the Human Rights Council

## ICP Activities in 2020

Below are presented all ICP activities conducted in 2020, introduced by a timeline infographic to provide contextual information on how 2020 activities fit into the ICP 5-step engagement in

target countries and according to their individual UPR timelines. Some key facts and figures as well as main achievements of each activity are listed.

### 3.1 Nepal



#### STEP 1: UPR Stakeholders Submission Webinar

- Following a webinar co-organized with the National Human Rights Commission – Nepal (NHRC) on how to draft other stakeholders' reports, the NHRC conducted national regional consultations. Results were reflected in both the National Report and the presentation by the national delegation during the UPR Working Group (a first for the UPR of Nepal).
- A follow-up webinar on the other stakeholders' submission resulted in 8 UPR "Other Stakeholders" reports submitted by civil society actors.
- Reports reflected the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the enjoyment of human rights as well as an analysis of the implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle thematic recommendations by using the OHCHR's "UPR Matrix" tool.
- Reports included an integrated human rights-based approach reflecting the specific situation of women and girls and other people in vulnerable situations, such as Dalits.

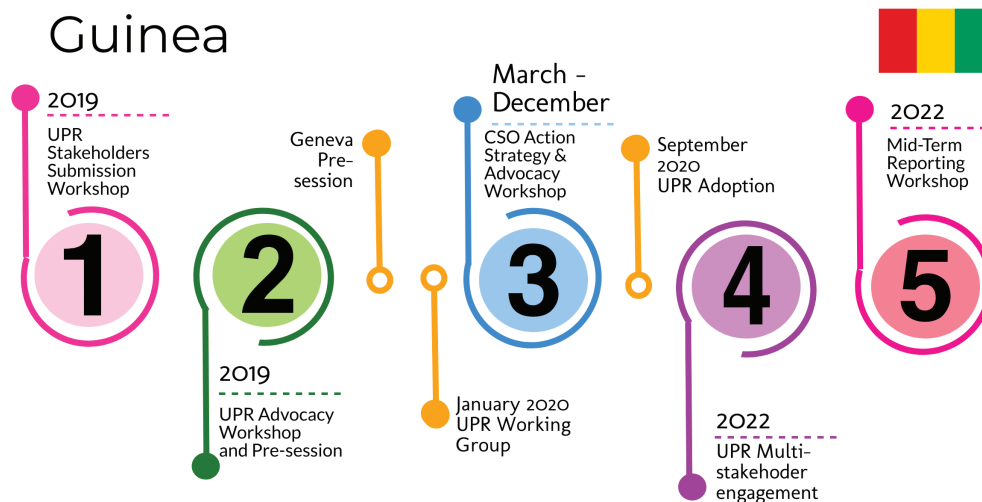


## STEP 2: In-Country National Pre-Session (Hybrid Format)

- 20 CSO participants trained on the development of UPR Advocacy Factsheets. As a result, 12 UPR Factsheets were developed by CSOs and the NHRC covering issues related to women's rights, Dalit rights, transitional justice, children's rights, and other issues.
- 7 Kathmandu-based diplomats (71% women) trained on the role of Recommending States at the UPR.
- 30 NHRC officers (57% women) trained on the specific roles and responsibilities of NHRIs at the UPR.
- A 2-day advocacy training for the speakers was organised, including presentations from journalists on how to deliver statements and improve advocacy.
- 32 CSO representatives trained on advocacy ahead of the UPR (42% women).
- 70 people attended the hybrid Pre-session, the first of its kind in Nepal: 10 speakers (50% women); 10 embassies and UN agencies, 40 CSO auditors. For this event, 10 video statements were developed by speakers.



## 3.2 Guinea



### STEP 3: CSO Action Strategy & Advocacy Webinar

- A series of 6 webinars were held on advocacy prior to the adoption of UPR reports and the clustering of UPR recommendations. The webinars were divided by human rights thematic and carried out in cooperation with the Guinean UPR CSO coalition, OHCHR, and the EU Delegation in Conakry.
- A 2-day workshop was held on the development of human rights indicators to monitor CSO actions in support of UPR implementation, with the active participation of 30 CSOs.
- A consultation meeting was organized between CSOs and Government line ministries to discuss the status of UPR recommendations, hosted by the NHRI and the OHCHR.
- 6 thematic action strategies were developed by CSOs and collated into one living document, with specific human rights indicators.
- A press conference was organized by CSOs to showcase their UPR priorities and sensitize the population to the mechanism.
- Activities were carried out in cooperation with ICP's Regional Advisor Mr. Elysée Sindyigaya.



### 3.3 Georgia



#### STEP 1:

#### UPR Submission Workshop & Optimising Submissions Webinar

- A submission workshop co-organized with the Open Society Georgia Foundation gathered 22 participants, 18 women among them (81,8%).
- Workshop achievement: the first drafts of 3 joint UPR reports were developed, with the contribution of 10 local CSOs.
- A follow-up webinar on optimising submissions gathered 9 participants.
- 8 “Other stakeholders” Reports were submitted by workshop participants. Reports included information on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the enjoyment of human rights; 2 coalition reports contained a UPR matrix to summarize the implementation levels of 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle recommendations.

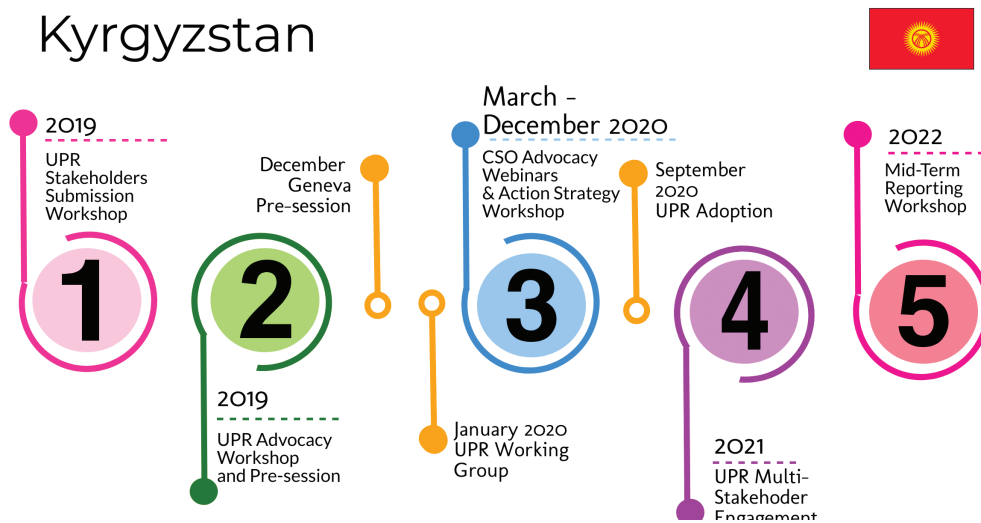


## STEP 2 : In-country Hybrid Pre-session

- 21 staff of the Public Defender Office (PDO), which is the NHRI, attended a training on the UPR and the role of NHRIs in the mechanism. Among participants, 18 were women (85,7%).
- 28 factsheets addressing a wide range of human rights themes were drafted by civil society participants and shared with resident embassies as well all permanent missions based in Geneva.
- 17 diplomats based in Georgia and neighbouring countries were trained on the role of Recommending States in the UPR. Among them were 9 women (53%).
- 10 video statements from CSOs and the PDO covering 10 human rights thematic were developed for the in-country Pre-session.
- 21 diplomats from embassies based in Tbilisi and neighbouring countries attended the in-country Pre-session.
- Georgian CSOs created a UPR Georgia social media account and developed a social media campaign to disseminate information on the level of implementation of 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle recommendations to the general public.



## 3.4 Kyrgyzstan



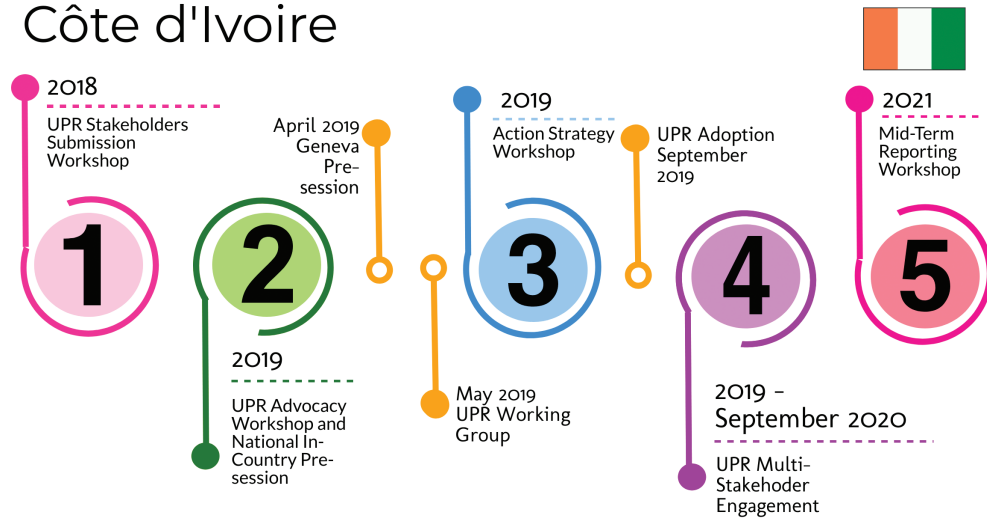
### STEP 3: UPR Strategy Workshop

- 2 webinars on advocacy prior to the adoption and on the clustering of UPR recommendations were organized with Russian-English interpretation. They brought together 24 participants from CSOs and NHRI as well as a representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- NHRI and CSO representatives met with the Kyrgyz delegation in Bishkek following the Review to discuss priority issues raised in the recommendations.
- A one-week UPR strategy workshop for CSOs and NHRI representatives brought together 38 participants from all regions of the country, as well as representatives from the OHCHR Regional Office for Central Asia (24 online and 14 in-person participants).
- Participants worked within 5 thematic groups, integrating outcomes from Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures and the SDGs in their action strategies.
- 5 thematic action strategies were initiated, containing 62 activities to support the implementation of 12 UPR recommendations.



## 3.5 Ivory coast

### Côte d'Ivoire



#### STEP 4.2:

#### Follow-up Workshop on Civil Society Action Strategies for UPR Implementation

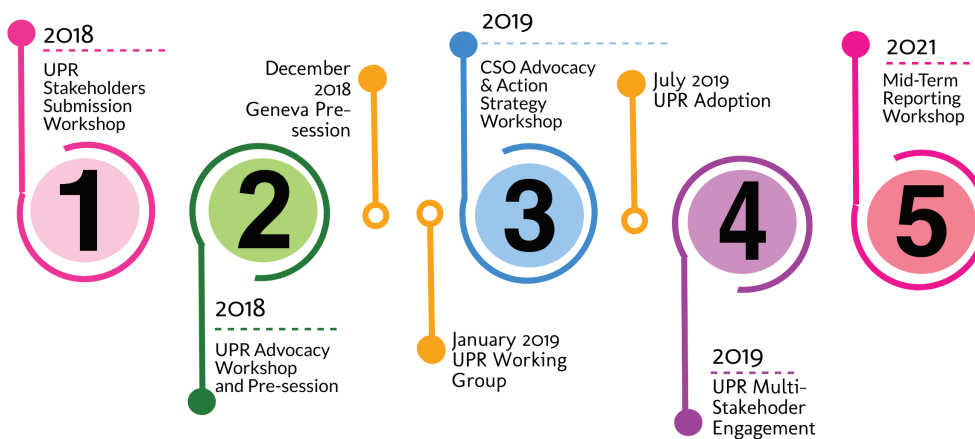
- The one-day workshop brought together 31 participants from CSOs and the NHRI, including 12 representatives from various regions. Among them, 8 were women (25,8%).
- 5 thematic action strategies were discussed and adapted. Thematic groups made 19 specific resolutions to implement the activities of the strategy that had not yet been carried out and presented them to their colleagues in the other thematic groups.





## 3.6 Cambodia

### Cambodia



#### STEP 4.2: Follow-up Activity on Developing Human Rights Indicators

- 7 implementing partners participated in 3 training-of-trainers sessions on developing human rights indicators to monitor the implementation of UPR recommendations. Participants included OHCHR in Cambodia as well as staff from the Cambodian Center for Human Rights – CCHR, including UPR Info's National Focal Point.
- Training materials on developing human rights indicators were translated into Khmer.

### 3.7 Gender Equality and Gender Parity in ICP Activities

	Country	Total participants	Regions represented	Women
<b>Step 1</b>	Nepal	21	14 (all regions, through NHRC regional offices)	40%
	Georgia	31	2*	84%
<b>Step 2**</b>	Georgia	68	2*	73,5%
	Nepal	107		53%
<b>Step 3</b>	Kyrgyzstan	62	8 (all regions) (76,3% of participants)	58%
	Guinea	243	7 (all regions)	36%
<b>Step 4</b>	Côte d'Ivoire	31	12 (38,7% of participants)	25,8%

\* NGOs are based in Tbilisi, but their representatives are working within communities from several regions of Georgia. Some NGOs are established by ethnic/religious minorities living in different parts of the country.

\*\* All Step 2 activities include webinars on the role of the NHRI, the role of Recommending States, and the development of UPR factsheets, in addition to an advocacy workshop and in-country Pre-session.

UPR Info ensures a gender analysis and human-rights based approach to all its activities, including those undertaken with national partners. Through its activities and partnerships, ICP encourages the active participation of women in decision-making processes and access to opportunities offered by the Programme, especially in countries where women and gender minorities are generally less active due to traditional socially constructed norms.

During each training workshop, ICP systematically presents the key elements of conducting a gender analysis to encourage participants to integrate it into their organisational work. This allows participants working not only on women's rights or equality, but on a variety of human rights thematic, to acquire the capacity to integrate a gender perspective in their UPR reporting, advocacy, follow-up, and implementation work. In some instances, these presentations are delivered in cooperation with resident UN agencies such as UN Women or UNDP, or with a local women's rights or equality organisation which can assist in reaching a wider audience and provide an engaging contextualised overview pertinent to the audience.

As an example, the CSO working group for women's rights, which was developed during previous ICP activities in DRC, gained support from Cooperation Canada to continue their monitoring role and further act on developed action strategies with a gender-integrated focus. These actions are being carried out in collaboration with different CSOs working in diverse regions and with a dedicated attention to conflict and risk areas, and women and girls in vulnerable situations. The work has enhanced cooperation between grass-roots organisations, bigger CSOs and the NHRI, as well as Government.

Moreover, in Guinea, a traditionally male-centred society, a woman has been appointed to the Secretariat of the National CSO UPR Coalition, established after the first ICP activity in Guinea in 2018. The representative leads cooperation discussions with partners and voices equality concerns amongst the members of the Coalition, thus actively supporting an integrated approach to gender in CSO activities.

# Digital Transformation Project

# 04

## UPR Info's New Website and E-learning Platform

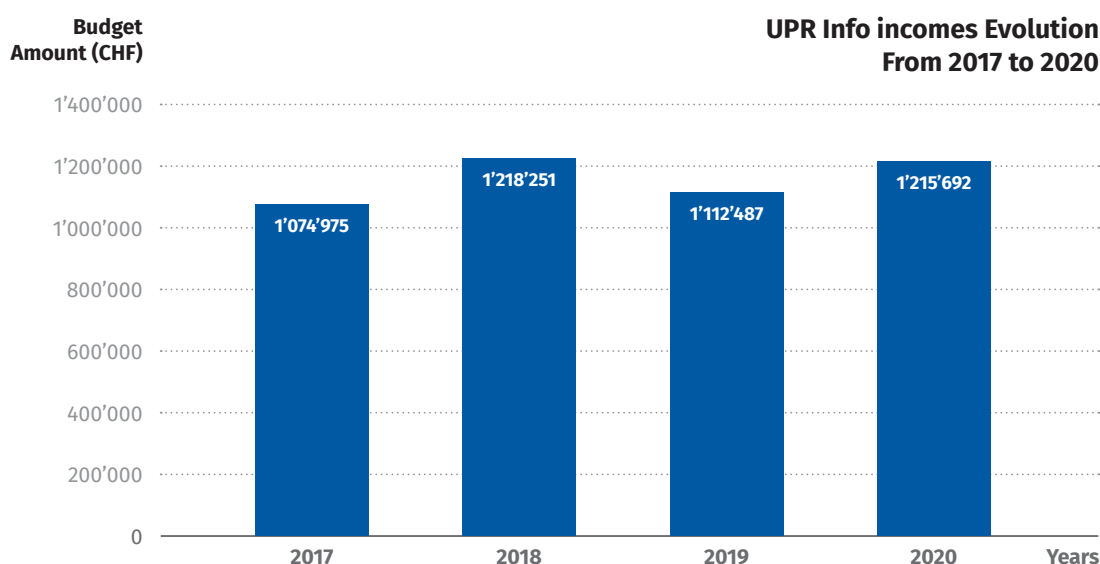
The ability of stakeholders to conduct advocacy and monitoring work as well as contributing to the implementation of UPR recommendations is increasingly dependent on technology and access to online information. Since 2018, UPR Info has been integrating digital tools in its activities, expanding the scope of its outreach and improving access to resources for stakeholders. Covid-19 has accelerated this integration process and led to a further assessment of how activities could be adapted to a virtual environment. This process has also highlighted the urgency of developing a robust website that responds to the needs of users, which will solidify UPR Info's position as a point of reference for stakeholders engaged in the UPR mechanism.

At a time when civil society space has become increasingly restricted, UPR Info has been re-thinking how to adapt its work to the current and future global scenario and how to strengthen its capacity to provide technical assistance to stakeholders. In 2020, UPR Info initiated the Digital Transformation Project, encompassing the development of a new website and e-learning platform. These tools will enhance the ability of stakeholders to use the UPR mechanism as a powerful tool for the advancement of human rights, facilitating access to technical information and learning opportunities through innovative platforms. The website and e-learning platform will launch in 2021.



# 05 Finance and Human Resources

## 5.1 UPR Info's Income



### Income Evolution, 2017-2020

Several of UPR Info's programmes are funded over a two- or three-year period. This allows for a long-term and continuous engagement with partners leading to sustainable results.

Funding for the In-country and Policy and Advocacy Programmes came to an end in 2019. UPR Info seized the opportunity to develop new elements in the respective programmes. Following an evaluation of the first phase of the Programme, ICP introduced new steps to provide continuous support to the beneficiaries of its work at the national level. Formerly the Pre-sessions Programme, the Policy and Advocacy Programme broadened its scope to enhance the policy work of the organization, contributing

to discussions on the strengthening of the UPR mechanism, in addition to continuing to support for CSO and NHRI advocacy through the Pre-sessions Project. The Stakeholders Programme, having well defined its objectives over the last two years by providing an extended support to a broad range of UPR stakeholders (States, parliaments, NHRIs, CSOs, academia, and media) consolidated its technical assistance.

Funding reached 1,074,975 CHF in 2017 and peaked in 2018 at 1,218,251 CHF corresponding to a large delivery of activities. In 2019, at a time when the organization was completing projects from the first funding cycle and piloting activities in view of new programme phases, operational activities reduced to 1,112,487 CHF.

## Income from 2020-2022

For the first three quarters of 2020, UPR Info faced a deficit of funding with around 45% of its budget not covered. Several circumstances explain this situation. The closing of several projects at the end of 2019 led to a gap in the reception of new funding streams. The Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated this situation, with some donors either reducing or not providing funding. However, following an extensive fundraising effort close communication with donors, and renewed donor trust, UPR Info ended the year with a total budget of 1,215,692 CHF. Approximately one quarter of these funds will be carried over into 2021 and 2022 as they were received during the last quarter of 2020 and relate to activities that will be implemented over the next two years.

## Evolution of Expenses, 2019-2020

UPR Info's budget is divided into spent and assigned funds; that is to say, financial contributions received during the year. Some of those funds are carried over from one year to another either because the funding covers several years and is not limited to a fiscal year or because the activities could not be carried out during the affected period.

While in the previous year the difference between funds received and assigned was marginal, 2020 presents a different situation: approximately 21% of the funds received were not affected for the implementation of activities in the same year.

In 2019, UPR Info delivered for a total amount of 1,288,264.53 CHF, of which CHF 191,633.15 CHF were carried out from 2018, with 1,112,486.80 CHF of funding assigned to this period. By contrast, in 2020, UPR Info's total budget amounted to 1,215,591.80 CHF however its expenditures were 986,766.47 CHF. In total, 597,981.68 CHF we received during the last quarter of 2020. Of this amount:

**336,392.31 CHF** retroactively cover expenses from January 2020; and

**261,589.37 CHF** relates to activities implemented in the last quarter of 2020 or that will be delivered by the end of 2021.

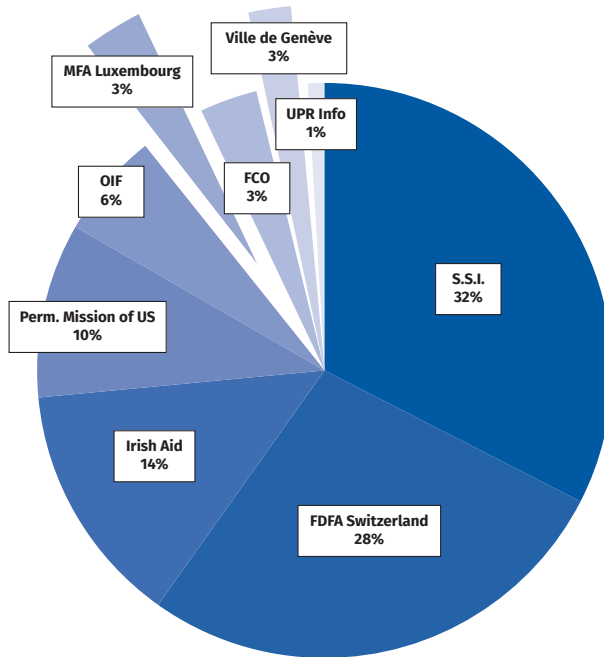
The funds appearing in the 2020 budget do not represent the amount of money with which the organisation operated as a large part of it will cover activities that will be implemented in 2021.

Funds spent by the Programmes	Funds assigned to 2018 => spent in 2019	2019 funds spent in 2019	Total spent in 2019	Funds assigned to 2019 => spent in 2020	2020 funds spent in 2020	Total spent in 2020
In-Country Programme	160,282.25	583,270.24	<b>743,552.49</b>	-	598,054.69	<b>598,054.69</b>
Policy and Advocacy Programme	-	253,779.80	<b>253,779.80</b>	39,024.83	266,753.47	<b>305,778.30</b>
Stakeholders Programme	31,350.90	259,581.34	<b>290,932.24</b>	31,428.65	51,504.83	<b>82,933.48</b>
<b>Total funds spent</b>	<b>191,633.15</b>	<b>1,096,631.38</b>	<b>1,288,264.53</b>	<b>70,453.48</b>	<b>916,312.99</b>	<b>986,766.47</b>

## Policy and Advocacy Programme

### Policy and Advocacy Programme

<b>Total income (assigned funds)</b>	<b>370,149.76</b>	
Total spent in 2020	305,778.30	<i>Of which 39,024.83 CHF are from 2019</i>
Carried over to 2021	86,516.40	



The total budget for the Policy and Advocacy Programme increased thanks to the contribution of new donors at the end of year. These new funds will cover activities in 2021. The Programme adapted to the restrictions resulting from the pandemic by organizing in-country Pre-sessions with local partners to continue to support the advocacy of human rights defenders who could not travel to Geneva. Furthermore, it increased its technical support to Pre-sessions participants by providing a specific training on the implementation of recommendations during the follow-up phase of the UPR.

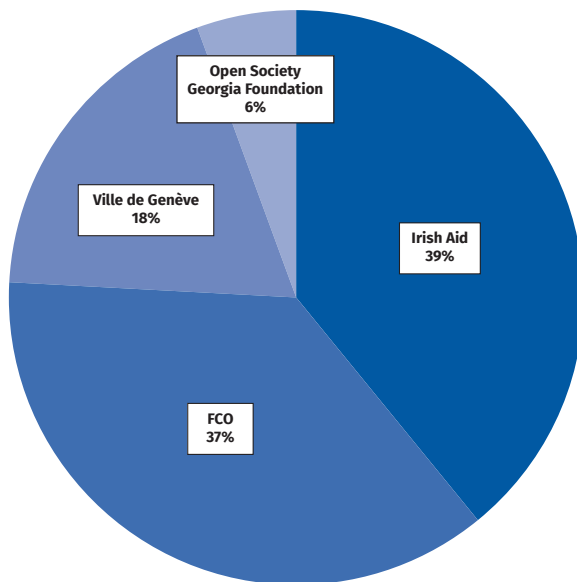
**Sources of funding for the Policy and Advocacy Programme in 2020**



## Stakeholders Programme

### Stakeholders Programme

<b>Total income (assigned funds)</b>	<b>177,661.47</b>	
Total spent in 2020	82,933.48	<i>Of which 31,428.65 CHF are from 2019</i>
Carried over to 2021	101,302.11	



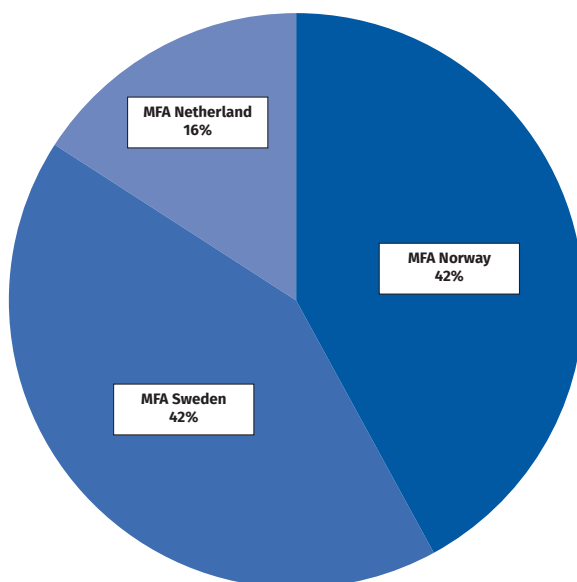
The implementation of activities within the Stakeholders Programme was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic as in-person training, one of the core elements of the Programme, could not take place. Instead, training was adapted to a virtual format, which allowed the Programme to reach a wide audience despite restrictions resulting from the pandemic. The Programme operated with less funds in 2020, as some donors either diverted their support to humanitarian Covid-19 relief or confirmed their contribution only at the end of the year. Funds secured during the last quarter of the year will ensure a smooth delivery of Programme activities in 2021.

#### *Sources of funding for the Stakeholders Programme in 2020*

## In-Country Programme

### In-Country Programme

<b>Total income (assigned funds)</b>	<b>667,880.57</b>
Total spent in 2020	598,054.69
Carried over to 2021	61,630.04



The In-Country Programme received less funds in 2020 than in 2019. However, despite the reduction of funding and the sanitary restrictions that prevented the delivery of in-person training, the Programme provided technical assistance to 5 out of 9 target countries through online training sessions, training-of-trainers, and supporting partner organisations in the implementation of their activities from a distance.

#### *Sources of funding for the In-Country Programme in 2020*

## 5.2 Balance Sheet and Result Account 2020

**Bilan / Balance Sheet**  
**au 31 décembre 2020 / as at 31st of December 2020**  
 (avec chiffres comparatifs 2019 / with 2019 comparative)

<b>ACTIF/ASSETS</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Liquidités / <i>Cash (Annexe 6)</i>	493,727.14	181,606.97
Subventions et produits à recevoir / <i>Grants to be received</i> ( <i>Annexe : Mouvement des fonds affectés / Movement of affected funds</i> )	30,594.76	54,698.06
Actifs de régularisation / <i>Transitory assets (Annexe 7)</i>	2,437.10	29,925.05
<b>Actifs circulants / <i>Current assets</i></b>	<b>526,759.00</b>	<b>266,230.08</b>
Garanties / <i>Guarantees (Annexe 8)</i>	4,906.37	4,906.37
<b>Actifs immobilisés / <i>Permanent assets</i></b>	<b>4,906.37</b>	<b>4,906.37</b>
<b>Total de l'actif / <i>Total Assets</i></b>	<b>531,665.37</b>	<b>271,136.45</b>
<b>PASSIF/LIABILITIES</b>		
Charges sociales dues / <i>Social benefits to be paid (Annexe 9)</i>	2,527.25	7,964.08
Passifs de régularisation / <i>Payable and accruals (Annexe 10)</i>	100,385.07	42,192.58
<b>Capitaux étrangers a court terme / <i>Short term liabilities</i></b>	<b>102,912.32</b>	<b>50,156.66</b>
Fonds reçus d'avance non utilisés / <i>Deffered Income</i> ( <i>Annexe : Mouvement des fonds affectés / Movement of affected funds</i> )	275,252.80	70,453.48
Fonds pour projets futurs / <i>Funds for future projects (Annexe 11)</i>	131,294.64	131,294.64
<b>Capitaux étrangers a long terme / <i>Long term liabilities</i></b>	<b>406,547.44</b>	<b>201,748.12</b>
Capital / <i>Capital</i>	22,205.61	19,231.67
<b>Capitaux propres / <i>Equities</i></b>	<b>22,205.61</b>	<b>19,231.67</b>
<b>Total du passif / <i>Total liabilities</i></b>	<b>531,665.37</b>	<b>271,136.45</b>

**Compte de résultat 2020 / 2020 Result account**  
**du 1er janvier au 31 décembre / From 1st of January to 31st of December**  
 (avec chiffres comparatifs 2019 / with 2019 comparative)

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Subventions de projets / Grant for projects (Annexe : Mouvement des fonds affectés / Movement of affected funds)	1,215,591.80	1,081,398.88
Recettes propres / Own revenue	1,217.59	2,758.26
<b>Produits / Incomes</b>	<b>1,216,809.39</b>	<b>1,084,157.14</b>
Ateliers et séminaires / Workshops and seminars	-56,037.36	-383,869.09
Accords de partenariats / Partnership agreements	-48,033.34	-38,934.33
Publications et Vidéos / Publications and Videos	-17,764.03	-7,754.40
Plateforme et Site Web / Platform and Website	-116,355.01	-41,342.97
Bureaux à l'étranger / Regional offices	0.00	-79,434.40
Salaires et charges sociales / Salaries and social charges	-694,694.65	-677,736.51
Frais administratifs et frais courants / Administrative costs and Running costs	-45,713.92	-50,540.27
Gouvernance et Organisation / Governance and Organization	-5,525.40	-8,619.07
Charge financières / Financial charges	-886.41	-1,780.57
<b>Charges / Expenditures</b>	<b>-985,010.12</b>	<b>-1,290,011.61</b>
<b>Résultat net avant variation des fonds/Net result before variation of funds</b>	<b>231,799.27</b>	<b>-205,854.47</b>
<b>Mouvements des fonds affectés/Movement of affected funds</b>	<b>-228,825.33</b>	<b>206,865.65</b>
Attribution aux fonds affectés/Allocation to affected funds	-1,215,591.80	-1,081,398.88
Utilisation des fonds affectés/Used of affected funds	986,766.47	1,288,264.53
	<b>2,973.94</b>	<b>1,011.18</b>

**Détail du compte de capital / Capital detailed**  
**au 31 décembre 2020 / as at 31st of December 2020**  
 (avec chiffres comparatifs 2019 / with 2019 comparative)

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Solde reporté / Report</b>	19,231.67	15,800.01
<b>Attributions (Annexe 16)</b>	0.00	2,420.48
<b>Solde reporté après attributions</b>	19,231.67	18,220.49
<b>Resultat annuel / Year result</b>	2,973.94	1,011.18
<b>Capital / Capital</b>	22,205.61	19,231.67



## 2020 Donors

### Foundations

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*Open Society Georgia Foundation*

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### Institutional Donors

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*Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland*

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*Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom*

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*Government Offices of Sweden*

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*Irish Aid*

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*Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands*

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*Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie*

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*Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway*

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*Wallonie-Bruxelles Internationale (1)*

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*Ministère des Affaires Etrangères Luxembourg (1)*

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### Local Donors

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*Canton of Geneva, Service de la Solidarité Internationale*

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*City of Geneva*

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### Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva

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*Permanent Mission of Denmark (1)*

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*Permanent Mission of the Netherlands*

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*Permanent Mission of the United States*

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**(1) Activities will be delivered in 2021**

# The Way Forward

# 06

In 2021, UPR Info will continue to adapt its training curriculum to improve the delivery of technical support and to respond to the needs of its beneficiaries. With the launch of UPR Info's new website and e-learning platform, the organisation will be better equipped to support stakeholders in the future by facilitating access to information and offering both in-person and online capacity building activities.

As the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle of the UPR is fast-approaching, UPR Info will be organizing multi-stakeholder consultations to inform the discussions on the strengthening of the mechanism. It will also roll out a new curriculum on human rights indicators to reinforce the capacity of national actors to monitor and implement UPR recommendations. Within this framework, UPR Info will publish a report on the implementation of UPR recommendations in Federal States to encourage reflection on how both unitary and federal countries can better involve local entities in the promotion of human rights through the UPR.

The organisation will be also reinforcing its awareness-raising activities surrounding the role other stakeholders, including youth and the judiciary, in the UPR process, providing them with strategies for successful engagement.

The In-country Programme will draw on its experiences of remote support to achieve its capacity building objectives and ensure a sustained multistakeholder engagement in target countries with the aim of improving their human rights situation through the UPR. More than ever, the discussion on human rights should remain a priority for every country to address in a sustainable way the issues vulnerabilities exacerbated during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Finally, on an internal level, UPR Info will develop a risk management policy to support the achievement of its mission and objectives, protect staff and assets, and ensure financial sustainability. This will contribute the capacity of the organisation to maximise opportunities and to minimise adversity.

UPR Info's activities were supported by 15 donors in addition to international and national partner organisations in 2020. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to each of them for making our work possible and thereby ensuring that the UPR remains an effective tool to advance human rights.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office



Government Offices of Sweden  
Ministry of Finance



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY  
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



THE GOVERNMENT  
OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG  
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs



Irish Aid

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
Netherlands



REPUBLIQUE  
ET CANTON  
DE GENÈVE

POST TENEBRAS LUX



UDENRIGSMINISTERIET  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK



Wallonie - Bruxelles  
International.be



child rights connect



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



human rights information and documentation systems



CENTRE D'ACCUEIL DE LA GENÈVE INTERNATIONALE  
INTERNATIONAL GENEVA WELCOME CENTRE



GANHRI

Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions

*In addition to local partners involved in activities at the national level*

# Internal Organisational Structure

07

## UPR Info Executive Board 2020

The Executive Board oversees the policies and operations of UPR Info to ensure that the organisation meets its goals. It is composed as follows:

**Mr. Miloon Kothari** (India)  
President

**Professor Edward R. McMahon** (USA)  
Board Member

**Mr. Chris Duckett** (USA)  
Treasurer

**Ms. Catherine Mbengue** (Cameroun, Switzerland)  
Board Member

**Ms. Hoa Nghiem** (Vietnam)  
Board Member

## UPR Info Secretariat 2020



**Ms. Mona M'Bikay**  
Executive Director



**Ms. Nargiz Arupova**  
Programme Manager  
In-country Programme



**Ms. Nicoletta Zappile**  
Programme Manager  
Stakeholders  
Programmer



**Ms. Ashleigh Shields**  
Programme Manager  
Policy and Advocacy  
Programme



**Ms. Tenar Lorente**  
Programme Officer  
In-country Programme



**Ms. Laura Sinner**  
Programme Officer  
In-country Programme



**Ms. Eleonora Aggio**  
Programme Assistant  
Policy and Advocacy  
Programme



**Ms. Saïda Laurent**  
Finance and Administration  
Manager



**Ms. Claudia Caicedo**  
Digital Transformation  
Project Manager



## Internship Programme 2020

The work of UPR Info would not have been possible without the support of our interns:

**Ms. Emma Larroumet**

**Ms. Clara Sánchez López**

**Ms. Basma El Kaldi**

**Ms. Maud Chambet**

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UPR Info is the founder of the We Pay Our Interns Initiative, which is composed of 47 partner organisations.

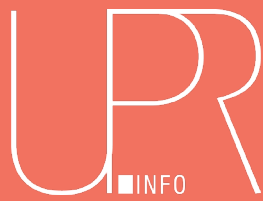


## Codes of Conduct and Policies

UPR Info work is guided by the following codes of conduct and policies:

- Organisational Policies and Procedures (2012/2016/2018/2020)
- Finance Guide (2020)
- Anti-Fraud Policy (2014)
- Anti-Corruption Code (2014)
- Anti-Terrorism Policy (2016)
- Sexual Harassment Policy (2018)
- Code of Conduct for Board Members (2019)
- Child Protection Protocol (2019)
- Business Continuity Plan (2020 – developed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic)





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Switzerland

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[@UPRInfo](https://www.facebook.com/UPRInfo)