

# UPR Info

# Annual Report 2022



UPR  
INFO



## **IMPRESSUM**

### **Redaction**

UPR Info team

### **Graphic design**

[www.ateliergraphique.ch](http://www.ateliergraphique.ch)

### **Photos**

UPR Info

**November 2023**

# Content

	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>01</b>	<b>Policy and Advocacy Programme</b>	<b>4</b>
	1.1 Policy	5
	1.2 Advocacy	10
	1.3 Pre-sessions	11
<b>02</b>	<b>Stakeholders Engagement Programme</b>	<b>12</b>
	2.1 Civil Society: Empowering Human Rights Defenders	13
	2.2 States	14
	2.3 National Human Rights Institutions: aggregating and catalysing actors	16
	2.4 UN Agencies: "Strengthening Collaboration"	17
	2.5 Journalists: Using the UPR to Report on Human Rights	17
	2.6 Youth: Setting the Agenda Through the UPR	19
	2.7 Academics: Bringing the UPR to Universities	20
<b>03</b>	<b>In-Country Programme</b>	<b>22</b>
	3.1 Madagascar	23
	3.2 Kyrgyzstan	24
	3.3 Georgia	25
	3.4 Democratic Republic of Congo	26
	3.5 Guinea	27
	3.6 Togo	28
	3.7 Bangladesh	29
	3.8 Nepal	30
	3.9 South Africa	31
	3.10 Gender Equality and Gender Parity in ICP Activities	32
<b>04</b>	<b>Digital Innovation and Knowledge Management Programme</b>	<b>33</b>
	4.1 New Website	34
	4.2 Most Searched Topics and Behaviour According to Access by Language	35
	4.3 The UPR Info e-Hub	37
	4.4 e-Hub testing phase	38
	4.5 Communication Tools	39
<b>05</b>	<b>Finance and Human Resources</b>	<b>40</b>
	5.1 Income	40
	5.2 Affected funds	41
	5.3 Balance Sheet and Result Account 2022	43
	5.4 Movement of affected funds for the year 2022	44
	5.5 2022 Donors	45
	5.6 Internal Organisational Structure	46
	5.7 Codes of Conduct and Policies	47
<b>06</b>	<b>Way Forward</b>	<b>48</b>

UNITED NATIONS

NATIONS UNIES



# Introduction

---

When the third Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Cycle ended in 2022, UPR Info took pivotal steps to strengthen the UPR process. The organization held online consultations to gather insights about the UPR's strengths and weaknesses, all with an eye toward informing and enhancing the effectiveness of the forthcoming 4<sup>th</sup> cycle.

Concurrently, a thorough study was conducted to explore the real-world impact of the UPR, with an emphasis on identifying best practices discussed at several policy meetings. UPR Info also provided critical training on developing integrated human rights monitoring plans, that include rights-based indicators, with the same objective of supporting states' commitment to uphold human rights.

Simultaneously, UPR Info once again started in-person activities in Geneva and in target countries after two years of travel restrictions due to the Covid-19 epidemic. The return of the Pre-sessions to the Palais des Nations drew increased interest from civil society organisations (CSOs) and national human rights institutions (NHRIs). It is encouraging since the platform, which guarantees civil society's voice is heard prior to UPR working group sessions, ensures that the UPR process incorporates a rights-based approach.

UPR Info has remained committed to assisting human rights defenders, especially in contexts marked by restrictions of civic space and rising tensions leading to heightened human rights violations. The organisation increased awareness about freedom of expression, the right to information, and journalists' safety in collaboration with UNESCO, recognizing these as a prerequisite for the fulfilment of human rights.

Furthermore, UPR Info cooperated with the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect to explore how the UPR mechanism could address the underlying causes of deteriorating human rights violations while preventing future escalation.

Continuing to prioritize accessibility and inclusivity, UPR Info launched a brand-new website that provides comprehensive information about the UPR in English, French, and Spanish, as well as guidance on how stakeholders can actively engage with the UPR process. The organisation has produced audio books to encourage children's engagement and created instructional videos to assist stakeholders in leveraging the UPR to promote human rights.

Our report will provide you with further information on how UPR Info continued to address the growing demand for capacity building among UPR stakeholders, facilitating webinars and in-person training sessions to ensure that everyone was well-equipped to navigate the different aspects of human rights promotion and protection through the UPR mechanism.

# 01 Policy and Advocacy Programme

---

With the return to face-to-face activities, the year of 2022 has been very rich for UPR Info in terms of policy and advocacy. The organisation was invited to participate in a large number of events where it was able to contribute ideas on the strengthening of the mechanism. We were able to organise our Pre-sessions in-person at the Palais des Nations again. This also coincided with the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle of the UPR and was of great interest to members of civil society, as well as to representatives of the Permanent Missions.

**The Policy and Advocacy Programme follows the following objectives:**

---

1. From a policy standpoint, UPR Info participates in and encourages discussions aimed at improving the effectiveness of the UPR mechanism and, as a result, the human rights situation in UN member states.
2. In terms of advocacy, UPR Info supports the engagement of civil society organisations (CSOs) and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) with the UPR by providing them with tools and opportunities to conduct effective advocacy work.

## 1.1 Policy

### High Level Panel

#### *High Level Panels during the 49<sup>th</sup> session of Human Rights Council*

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2022, the Human Rights Council (HRC) held the annual high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming. On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund, the theme this year was the contribution of universal participation to the mainstreaming of human rights throughout the United Nations system.

The procedures governing the UPR process ensure that all States are treated on an equal footing. Since 2008, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have increasingly demonstrated strong commitment to support and to recognize the mechanism as a critical tool of the HRC. Their commitment has been reiterated during the reviews and interactive dialogues of the Working Group on the UPR and at the adoption of the UPR outcomes and general debates under agenda item 6 of the Council's regular sessions on different critical issues affecting them, such as the effects of climate change on the enjoyment of human rights.

On this occasion, UPR Info encouraged and supported the engagement of civil society in the UPR. While recognizing the importance of in-person meetings, UPR Info emphasised in its statement the importance of facilitating the accessibility of the UPR for CSOs in LDCs and SIDSs. The new modalities put in place during the Covid-19 pandemic making use of pre-recorded statements allowed for a wider participation of not only the State delegation, but also of local civil society organisations.

Full statement available here: <https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/general-document/2022-05/UPR%20Info%20statement%20item%206%20GD.pdf>

#### *High Level Panel during the 50<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council*

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2022, the HRC held a high-level commemorative event on the occasion of

the 50<sup>th</sup> session of the Council on the achievement and lessons learned since its 1<sup>st</sup> session.

UPR Info was invited to reflect and share highlights on the impact of the Universal Periodic Review. After three cycles, more than 90,000 recommendations were made covering a broad range of human rights issues including civil and political rights, economic, social, and cultural rights, the protection of the rights of specific groups, and international humanitarian law related issues.

In its statement, UPR Info highlighted the importance of the role of civil society in the UPR process. A greater participation of CSOs can be observed by the increased number of reports submitted over the three cycles; NHRI reports have doubled. UPR Info emphasized the necessity of national advocacy and implementation efforts to address concerns in the State under Review. As an example, UPR Info referred to the crucial role that CSOs played during the UPR process of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Following the advocacy efforts by CSOs working on the rights of people with disabilities, in 2019 the first-ever minister for persons living in vulnerable situation was appointed in DRC. After two years, a bill was passed addressing necessary protection from discrimination.

Full statement available here: <https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/general-document/2022-07/06%202022%20UPR%20Info%20statement%20HRC%2050%20commemorative%20HL%20panel.pdf>

#### *High Level Panel during the 51<sup>st</sup> Human Rights Council*

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2022, the HRC and UNESCO held a high-level discussion on fostering freedom of expression through the UPR process.

The event, moderated by UPR Info, was an opportunity to reflect on the developments during the previous reviews, and to renew efforts towards enhanced implementation of recommendations already accepted on freedom of expression. Freedom of expression is a fundamen-

tal liberty that allows people to exercise other human rights. Its restriction is a concerning sign of the overall deterioration of the human rights situation.

We noticed an increase in recommendations on freedom of expression and journalist safety issues, as well as access to information, from the second to third UPR cycle.

During the event, UNESCO launched a Guidance note for Member States on how to phrase recommendations in the fields of freedom of expression, safety of journalists and access to information. The Guidance aims at advancing the use of specific recommendations to allow for a targeted follow-up at the country level. It can therefore also assist UN Country Teams, NHRIs, and civil society in their work. This is the result of a collaboration between UNESCO and UPR Info to provide awareness-raising materials about how the UPR can improve freedom of expression.

#### *6<sup>th</sup> Seminar of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie on the Universal Periodic Review*

On 7 September 2022, UPR Info participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> Seminar on the Universal Periodic Review organized by the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). This conference brought together representatives of Permanent Missions, Parliamentarians, CSOs and NHRIs, and aimed to share experiences of the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle and to consider ways to strengthen the UPR process in view of its 4<sup>th</sup> cycle. Discussions focused on good practices in the follow-up and evaluation of UPR recommendations and on ways to better involve Parliamentarians, NHRIs and CSOs in the process. UPR Info presented concrete examples of CSO engagement in the mechanism, including CSOs from Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Brazil that, through their advocacy and awareness raising activities, have positioned themselves as key actors in the implementation of UPR recommendations. In its speech, UPR Info also shared some ideas on how to ensure an effective and inclusive implementation of the recommendations and more specifically to promote the participation of CSOs at all stages of the process.

## Engagement under Item 6

### *Human Rights Council 49*

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2022, the 49<sup>th</sup> HRC held the general debate on the UPR under Item 6.

On this occasion, UPR Info recalled the importance of accelerating the implementation of the recommendations in the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle. In her statement the organisation's director highlighted that thanks to its participatory dimension, the UPR has the potential to "renew the social contract between Governments and their citizens to build inclusive societies embracing human rights". The universality of the mechanism has the potential to improve all human rights, all parts of society, to address problems in a structural way, and to address the root causes of conflicts.

### *Human Rights Council 51*

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2022, the 51<sup>st</sup> HRC held the general debate on the UPR under Item 6.

UPR Info made a joint statement with a coalition of NGOs led by the Centre Catholique International de Genève (CCIG) on the need to further engage different segments of civil society to ensure effective implementation of the UPR recommendations, and therefore, to advance the realisation of human rights at the local level. "We recommend implementing targeted capacity building initiatives to widen the pool of actors reached and ensure that human rights education and monitoring is systematically undertaken by key local stakeholders, including the government, the judiciary, and the Parliament", concluded Maria D'Onofrio, Secretary General of the CCIG.

Statement available here: [https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/general-document/2022-10/CCIG\\_joint\\_statement\\_51HRC-Item6.pdf](https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/general-document/2022-10/CCIG_joint_statement_51HRC-Item6.pdf)



## Side-events

### *Involvement of local actors in the UPR process*

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2022, on the margins of the 51<sup>st</sup> session of the HRC, the delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco in partnership with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea, UPR Info and the Moroccan Inter-ministerial Delegation for Human Rights organised an event on the thematic “The involvement of local actors in the UPR process: implementation of recommendations, monitoring and advocacy”.

The event was timely organised in advance of the 4<sup>th</sup> UPR cycle, and it provided the opportunity to reflect on how the UPR can continue to improve human rights on the ground with the support of local and regional governments (LRGs). The new cycle, which started in November 2022, will be focusing on enhancing the implementation of UPR recommendations. In order to respond to citizen’s needs, LGRs have a key role to play in complementing the efforts of States and it is therefore essential to support and include them in the process.

During the event, the speakers shared good practices on how LRGs can participate more actively in different phases of the UPR process and especially during the implementation of recommendations. Cities, for example, have decision-making power at the local level and the capacity to implement decisions to improve human rights, including on issues relevant to them such as rights to housing, education, equality and non-discrimination, and the protection of persons in vulnerable and marginalised situations.

UPR Info also suggested a set of recommendations for States and LGRs, which are available here: <https://www.upr-info.org/en/news/involvement-local-actors-upr-process>

### *Supporting States, Realizing Rights*

On Thursday 3 November 2022, UPR Info was invited to virtually take the floor during the side event “Supporting States, Realizing Rights”, held in New York. The overlapping context of the upcoming fourth cycle of the UPR and the fifteenth anniversary of the Voluntary Fund for Implementation provided a good opportunity for Member States, United Nation entities, and

other stakeholders to collectively reflect on the achievements, good practices, and lessons learned from the implementation of UPR recommendations. Participants also reflected on how the use of the Voluntary Fund could further be optimised in support of developing States.

The event, organised by OHCHR and the Permanent Missions of Morocco, Dominican Republic, the Philippines, Switzerland, and South Africa, largely focused on the progression in the implementation of UPR recommendations by States and in their integration at the country level with the efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In its intervention, UPR Info highlighted how the UPR can be an instrument to strengthen the three pillars of the UN. Beyond the human rights pillar, which is the most intuitive of the mechanism, the UPR has the potential to prevent the aggravation of human rights violations and conflicts by addressing their root causes such as exclusion or discrimination in accessing rights and resources. Additionally, UPR Info recalled how the UPR contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. More than 80% of UPR recommendations are linked to the SDGs.

Full statement available here: [https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/general-document/2022-11/Side\\_event\\_4th\\_cycle\\_and\\_technical\\_funds\\_UPR\\_UPRInfo\\_contribution\\_Nov\\_22.pdf](https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/general-document/2022-11/Side_event_4th_cycle_and_technical_funds_UPR_UPRInfo_contribution_Nov_22.pdf)

## Other policy activities

### *Digital Human Rights Tracking Tools*

In October 2022 UPR Info participated in a roundtable organised by Geneva Academy on digital human rights tracking tools. Monitoring tools and databases have a huge potential for national actors, as they allow for easier access to information and thus better management of monitoring, reporting and follow-up of international human rights recommendations.

At this roundtable UPR Info presented the functioning of its UPR recommendations database and its usefulness. Indeed, our recommendations database has become an indispensable tool for all actors engaging in the UPR. Our database is a key tool for national stakeholders to easily access the commitments made by their governments in the framework of the UPR and thus hold them accountable. It is useful to the different branches of States for the implementation of recommendations, and it allows the recommending States to follow up on the status of the implementation of their recommendations.

### *Outcome Report of the 4<sup>th</sup> Cycle Consultations with Civil Society*

Following a process of informal consultations with civil society which started in the summer of 2021, UPR Info published the Outcome Report of the 4<sup>th</sup> Cycle Consultations with Civil Society in May 2022. The report presents the key findings and recommendations on how civil society can continue to contribute to the strengthening of the UPR in the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle. Greater collaboration between stakeholders and the broader accessibility and inclusivity of the UPR process are just some of the issues highlighted in the report.

The objective of the informal consultations was to provide a space for constructive dialogue among civil society representatives to identify challenges and suggest solutions to effectively engage in the new UPR cycle. This process was carried out in three phases:

During the first phase, UPR Info launched a survey for civil society, including NGOs, associations, NHRIs, parliamentarians and academics to assess the technical and procedural aspects of the UPR from the preparation of the review to the implementation phase. The survey was available online in English, French, and Spanish to ensure that feedback from a wide group of regional actors could be included in the assessment.

In the second phase, UPR Info hosted a two-day online debate with civil society actors. The agenda of the informal discussion was guided by the issues highlighted in the survey to ensure that the discussion reflected the concerns of civil society. More than 150 people attended the consultations online.

Finally, the third phase of the consultation process consisted of analysing and compiling the outcomes of the surveys and the online debate to publish the Outcome Report.

Full report available here: <https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/general-document/2022-05/UPR%20Info%20-%204th%20Cycle%20Consultations%20with%20Civil%20Society%20%281%29.pdf>



### The Universal Periodic Review and the Responsibility to Protect: Applying an atrocity lens to the UPR

In 2022, UPR Info organised a series of five regional workshops, in collaboration with the Global Centre for Responsibility to Protect (GCR2P), with the aim of strengthening stakeholder awareness of atrocity risks and empowering them to address risk factors through the UPR, leading to strengthened national institutions and long-term atrocity prevention. The UPR provides opportunities for the identification of possible risk factors for mass atrocities, facilitates structural prevention and, consequently, supports sustainable development processes. The mechanism is particularly well suited to aid States in identifying gaps in national-level atrocity prevention capacity that can be addressed through the strengthening of institutions and tackling the causes that can lead to systemic human rights violations.

Through the implementation of recommendations received from their peers, the mechanism encourages States to foster an environment conducive to addressing the root causes of human rights violations. Although the State is the main duty bearer in the UPR process, civil society and NHRIs have a critical role to play.

These national stakeholders are equipped with first-hand experience to provide an up-to-date assessment of human rights realisation on the ground, allowing them to contribute to recommendations through human rights education, and holding the government accountable on its human rights obligations. Hence, civil society is an important partner throughout the process for effective implementation of UPR recommendations. This project has benefited more than 70 CSOs, from 37 different countries in Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

In addition to these series of workshops dedicated to civil society organisations, we also organised a conference at the Palais des Nations, to raise awareness among state actors of the potential of the UPR as a prevention mechanism and to present good practices.

*This project contributed to the discussion that resulted in the adoption of the Human Rights Council resolution 45/31 on “The Human Rights Council’s Contribution to the Prevention of Human Rights Violations” on 7 October 2020. The latter reaffirms that the UPR helps to prevent human rights violations and promotes and protects human rights. In this regard, it calls on all Human Rights Council mechanisms to incorporate prevention into their work.*

## 1.2 Advocacy

### *Audiobook for child participation in the UPR*

UPR Info created an adaptation of the book “The UPR & Me: My Guide to Participating in the UPR”, a collaborative project with Child Rights Connect, which is now available as an audiobook. The audiobook is child-friendly, introduces the United Nations and the Universal Periodic Review, and encourages listeners to become involved in the advocacy of their own rights. In accordance with UPR Info’s dedication to promoting inclusion in the UPR process, fostering understanding and action from young people is essential, as there are concerning low rates of child participation throughout the UPR. In the form of an audiobook, the guide can become even more inclusive and reach a greater audience, particularly children with disabilities. The audiobook explains the process of the UPR, including who is involved, the stages of the process, and why it holds such significance. This guide has simplified a complex process to support youth involvement and demonstrates exactly how to become engaged and make a difference on an international level. The increased accessibility of such information has the potential to greatly influence engagement and truly incentivize greater youth involvement in the UPR process. The audiobook is available in English, French and Spanish.

The audiobook is available here: <https://www.upr-info.org/fr/ressources/videotheque>



### *Strengthening civil society engagement in the UPR to advance freedom of expression*

Amnesty International and UNESCO have partnered up to support CSOs in engaging with the UPR mechanism to promote freedom of expression. As part of this collaboration, these organisations have developed guidelines on civil society engagement in the UPR, focusing specifically on the issue of freedom of expression. Additionally, a factsheet on the drafting of SMART recommendations was created.

UPR Info participated in the drafting of this factsheet. This tool provides tips and good practices to formulate UPR recommendations on freedom of expression, safety of journalists and access to information that are easier to monitor and help ensure accountability. UPR Info was also invited to moderate the discussions on the day of the launch of the material.

Guidelines available here: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000382049>

Factsheet available here: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000382048>

### 1.3 Pre-sessions

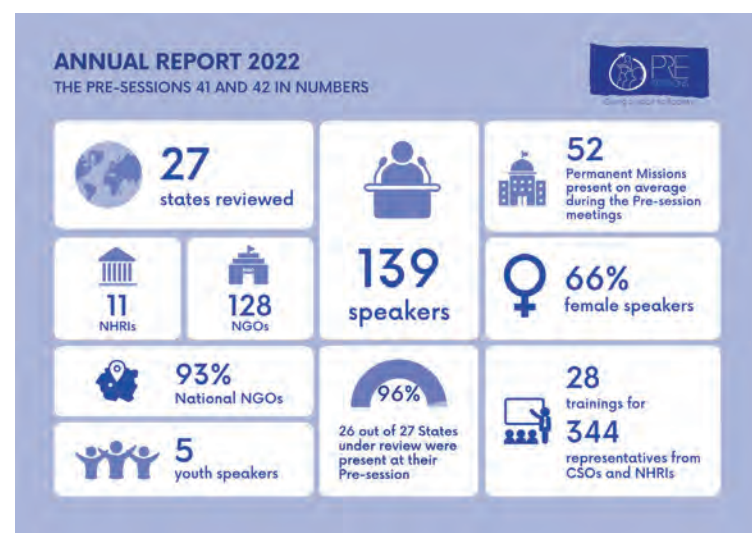


In 2022, UPR Info organised two series of Pre-sessions. Pre-sessions 41 and 42 corresponded with the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle, the resumption of face-to-face meetings and with the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of UPR Info's Pre-sessions. Since their creation, the Pre-sessions have become an essential platform for civil society to engage with the UPR. After 10 years the Pre-sessions are attracting a growing interest; we can affirm that they have become institutionalised as a key stage of the UPR and have become one of the main platforms for civil society participation in the UN system. Indeed, for these series of Pre-sessions we received a record number of 472 applications to take the floor, which allowed us to constitute a panel for all 27 States to be reviewed at the UPR Working Group in November 2022 and January 2023. The popularity of the Pre-sessions is also reflected in the impressive number of applications we received to observe the debates, which was over 600 in 2022. This is extremely gratifying, as it demonstrates the importance and interest of this platform for the participation of civil society and NHRIs in the UPR process.

Last year we were able to organise Pre-sessions for all the States under Review, namely 27 out of 27 – as the session on Ukraine has been postponed to a later date. A total of 139 CSO and NHRI actors took the floor during the Pre-sessions, with 93% representing national organisations. State participation was high; for Pre-sessions 41, we had the participation of 56 different permanent missions and for Pre-sessions 42, 49 different permanent missions participated, demonstrating a willingness to engage with civil

society and an interest in receiving first-hand information about the human rights situation directly from these stakeholders. The States under Review have also shown an interest in listening to the concerns of civil society, as 26 of the 27 States under Review were present at their own Pre-session.

Prior to the Pre-sessions, UPR Info has also organised a series of online training sessions in order to better prepare participants for the event. In 2022, we offered 28 trainings, in French, English, Spanish and Portuguese, to the participants of the Pre-sessions as well as to all the organisations that applied for a speaking slot, even if they were not selected. In total, 344 human rights defenders participated in the trainings.



It is also worth mentioning a good new practice in the framework of our Pre-sessions, which was introduced by the Netherlands during Pre-sessions 41. The Netherlands was one of the States under Review and the Permanent Mission decided to organise a side event and invite the speakers of the Pre-sessions to discuss the human rights situation in the country in more depth with interested States. This approach of including civil society in the process is fully in line with the participatory spirit of the mechanism and we encourage other States to replicate this good practice.

# 02 Stakeholders Engagement Programme

---

In 2022, UPR Info consolidated the work of the Stakeholders Engagement Programme. The programme has two main objectives:

---

1. Support key UPR stakeholders to promote an effective implementation of human rights recommendations by developing tailored tools and organising capacity building activities.

---

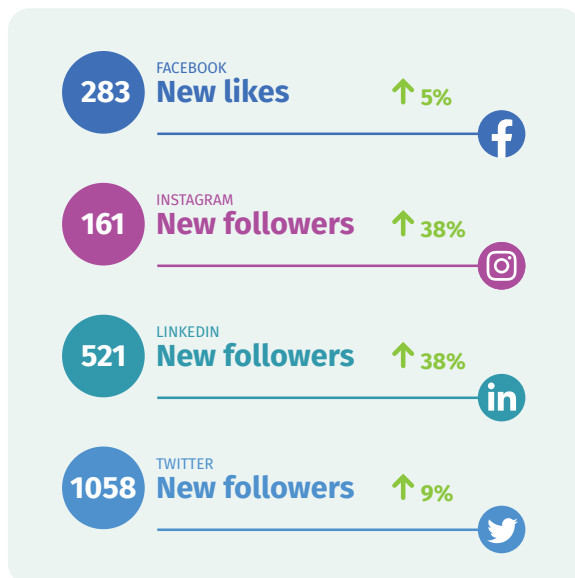
2. Increase strategic communications and partnerships to engage more people in the promotion and protection of human rights throughout the UPR.

To achieve these objectives, UPR Info used a broad spectrum of integrated tactics:

- Capacity building
- Partnership development
- Tools and analyses

## 2.1 Civil Society: Empowering Human Rights Defenders

The UPR is an important space for civil society – whether individuals, community groups or CSOs. The participation of civil society in this process ensures that the views of the people on the ground are taken into account. Given the key role of civil society, UPR Info continues to provide strategic support for CSOs to promote human rights through the UPR. In 2022, online training sessions for human rights defenders (HRD) and CSO members from more than 50 countries were delivered. The sessions mainly guided HRDs in the preparation of Other Stakeholders' Report, in the preparation of mid-term reports as well as offering different advice to conduct a strategic advocacy through the UPR.



*“The advocacy factsheets tool can be very useful for education drives, media campaigns, and in dialogues with local government officials”*

### HRD in the Philippines

To provide HRDs and WHRDs with additional tools to use in the reporting and advocacy work, UPR Info has been partnering regularly with the Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI). For the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> UPR cycles, the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights encouraged CSOs to assess how UPR recommenda-

tions were implemented in their country. To do so, CSOs are required to use firsthand information to fill in gaps that the other stakeholders' reports may have. Data and statistics can help support the assessment of the human rights trends perceived by CSOs. Thanks to the Rights Tracker developed by HRMI, context and statistics can be added to the CSO's firsthand observations.

In 2022, UPR Info integrated a peer exchange session in all online trainings, so that participants could benefit directly from the experience of their colleagues. In these training sessions UPR Info made efforts to provide a special focus on the realisation of ESCR, promoting equality and non-discrimination. To this end, more CSO members working on ESC rights were invited to join the training sessions as participants, and new partnerships were established with NGOs that have long-established experience in ESC rights, such as Race and Equality and the National Youth Council of Moldova.

Tailored capacity building activities were also organised online for CSOs from Zambia, Turkey, India, and the Philippines.



### *Training to organisations working on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR)*

UPR Info conducted a series of trainings to organisations working on SRHR in Ghana and Sri Lanka ahead of the UPR Working Group 41. In these trainings 15 people learned how to write UPR reports, how the mechanism works, and how to engage in strategic advocacy in the UPR.

*“My organisation coordinates a civil society network that follows the UPR implementation in Brazil and we will hold a round table dialogue with Embassies in Brazil, engage during national consultation, contact Geneva delegations to send our reports and other information and updates.”*

*WHRD in Brazil*

## 2.2 States

In 2022, UPR Info provided technical support to States before the UPR Working Group. In advance of the UPR of Haiti and Togo, State Delegates participated in a UPR simulation exercise of an interactive dialogue. 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, advance questions submitted by Recommending States, and/or recommendations raised during UPR Info's Pre-sessions to create a mock-up of the Review.

In order to build the capacity of these actors, we have produced 5-minute-long videos that present the role of the State under Review in the UPR and the functioning of this mechanism. Thanks to this short video, State representatives can receive key information on the mechanism in a quick and didactic way.

The videos are available on our website and our YouTube channel in English, French and Spanish. <https://www.upr-info.org/en/news/upr-info-launches-new-video-role-states-under-review>

UPR Info was invited by the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) to provide a workshop for the National Committee for the Coordination, Reporting and Follow-up on recommendations in the field of human rights in Tunisia. The workshop aimed at supporting the National Committee in the fourth cycle of the UPR and to provide a platform to discuss and plan Tunisia's



upcoming UPR process. UPR Info presented guidelines to write national reports as well as best practices for involving children in the consultation process.

This year, UPR Info's work with States focused more on providing the tools and methodology to follow up on UPR recommendations and human rights recommendations in Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire.

*“I learnt how to identify human rights issues in my Ministry and the best indicators to use following the UPR indicators treaty bodies indicators and or UN indicators”*

*Focal point MDA in Sierra Leone*



The abolition of the death penalty and the adoption of a Gender Equality Policy to ensure meaningful participation of women in decision-making positions are just a few of the significant strides made by Sierra Leone to improve the human rights situation in its territory. Significant efforts have also been made in the reporting work of human rights recommendations to show the progressive developments. Following a request for technical support in the monitoring of UPR recommendations UPR Info provided capacity building support to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFAIC) and Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) in the country. UPR Info supported the Inter-Ministerial Committee to further enhance its capacities in monitoring and reporting human rights commitments.

minimum age of marriage for men and women in accordance with international standards, stepping up action to end female genital mutilation and forced marriage, and enacting the law on the promotion and the protection of human rights defenders. Following a request for support, UPR Info provided a technical workshop on the development of tools for the follow-up and implementation of UPR recommendations to the members of the Inter-ministerial Committee for the follow-up of the implementation of international human rights instruments. The capacity building activity organised in partnership with the National Human Rights Council (CNDH) made the different Ministries aware of the responsibility of the State to implement and monitor UPR recommendations, and of the good practices that can support this work.

*“What I liked the most in the training is the groupwork. I will use the same method in my department to accomplish my work.”*

*“We learned more about the value of following up on recommendations in relation to the relevance and objectivity of indicators. Also, on the relevant elements for the drafting of future shadow reports. Thank you.”*

Côte d’Ivoire has demonstrated political will to improve the human rights situation in the country. Recommendations accepted include but are not limited to setting the same mini-

*Cote d’Ivoire*



## Promoting economic social and cultural rights through the UPR

In order to ensure a greater balance between recommendations on civil and political rights, and on economic, social, and cultural rights in the 4<sup>th</sup> UPR cycle, UPR Info organised a series of seminars to encourage UN Member States to focus on economic equality. The recommendations are the main tool through which the UPR can contribute to the improvement of human rights in the State under Review. Often UN Member States make general recommendations, and it is harder for the State under Review to identify constructive actions to implement them. To strengthen the efficiency of the mechanism to improve human rights, UPR Info believes it is important that UN Member States formulate recommendations that are precise and action oriented.

The seminars, organised in partnership with the OHCHR, aimed to provide related guidance and good practices to support recommendations and relevant follow-up. These events were an occasion to inspire diplomats in making action-oriented recommendations to promote economic equality and broader enjoyment of economic, social, and cultural rights by using the SMART methodology.

Given the interest of UN Members in this type of support and the growing attention that OHCHR is giving to addressing economic inequality, UPR Info decided to organise these kinds of events on a regular basis before the UPR Working Groups.

---

## 2.3 National Human Rights Institutions: aggregating and catalysing actors

---

In 2022, UPR Info's work with NHRIs focused on providing good practices for mid-term reporting. In Côte d'Ivoire, with assistance from the partnership with the CNDH, CSOs and the CNDH staff from the regions could meet to finalise the mid-term report started in October 2021. In DRC, thanks to support from the CNDH, a multi-stakeholder conference was organised. The event gathered CSOs, members of the NHRC, members of the government and parliament, as well as individuals from the international community. Different midterm reports were presented to highlight the progress and challenges in the implementation of UPR recommendations by the DRC. Both these activities took place on-site with the support of the In-Country Programme.

As part of its commitment to supporting the engagement of NHRIs in the UPR, UPR Info has undertaken a variety of other initiatives, including the collaboration with the National Human Rights Council of Morocco and the Children and Young People's Commissioner in Scotland to enhance youth engagement in the UPR process.

As in previous years, UPR Info participated in the training programme for members of NHRIs organised by GANHRI, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) and UNITAR. The participants of this year, coming from Colombia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Russia, Ukraine, Palestine, and Nepal, received short informative videos produced by UPR Info with concrete advice on NHRIs' engagement in the UPR in advance of the online session. During the tailored online workshop, UPR Info facilitated sessions on UPR reporting and monitoring of the implementation of recommendations through exercises and the sharing of best practices.

## 2.4 UN Agencies: "Strengthening Collaboration"

When conducting activities in-country, UPR Info establishes solid relationships with the UN Country Teams (UNCTs). UNCTs have a crucial role in promoting human rights and in the 2030 Agenda highlighting a human-rights based approach to development. For the work in Sierra Leone and the DRC, UNCT have been key partners for the success of UPR Info activities.

In 2022, UPR Info took part in a joint project between UNESCO and Amnesty International to provide tools to support civil society in advancing freedom of expression, safety of journalists and access to information when engaging with the UPR. In particular, UPR Info has contributed to the realisation of guidelines for CSOs to foster freedom of expression, access to information and protection of journalists, and the development of a factsheet on how to craft UPR recommendations in the most effective way.

*"I would like to congratulate you all for your diligence and the quality of your work. We now have quality information on the basis of which the Democratic Republic of the Congo can validly present the progress made and measure the challenges still to be met for the advancement of human rights in the country. [...] You can be proud of the culture of results, the working methods, and the spirit of collaboration that we have gradually built up over the last few years. I am confident that we will continue along this path, in order to better respond, with the support of technical and financial partners, to the aspirations of rights holders."*

*M. Abdoul Aziz THIOYE, Director of BCNUDH, DRC*

## 2.5 Journalists: Using the UPR to Report on Human Rights

By publishing and broadcasting human rights programmes, disseminating information on human rights, reporting on government policies, and promoting tolerance, the media can bring human rights to the centre of public discourse. Following a half-day workshop session for journalists in DRC to sensitise them about their role within the UPR, a network of journalists reporting on human rights was established.

*"I will write more reports and essays and articles about the incidents and activities and actions that are going happening in Darfur and elsewhere."*

*journalist from DRC*

In 2022, UPR Info mainly worked in partnership with the Multilateral Dialogue section in Geneva of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) and the Universal Rights Group (URG) to train journa-

lists. Following the training sessions with KAS, we identified an increase of coverage on the UPR, especially in Togo and Zimbabwe.

*"A good initiative which will equip us as journalists to address more human rights issues in our work"*

*Journalists from DRC*

The collaboration with URG also has been very positive and resulted in the publication of various articles by the participants such as the one entitled "What is Universal Periodic Review and why citizens must participate in it" published by a media outlet in the Philippines. Another participant from Uganda was invited as a speaker to a conference organised in Kampala under the event title "The UPR in Uganda: Towards a collective and coordinated action in implementing the UPR recommendations". The journalist discussed the role of CSOs in measuring outcomes



of UPR, giving the media perspective, and based her intervention on UPR Info's publication "The UPR: Beyond Reporting". This year, more than 200 journalists from Algeria, Morocco, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, and Zimbabwe were trained prior to the UPR Working Group of their respective country to provide them with the necessary knowledge to follow the UPR process.

*"The webinar was of great help, it shared information that as a journalist I was expected to know but did not have"*

*Journalist from South Sudan*

## 2.6 Youth: Setting the Agenda Through the UPR

Young people may face discrimination and obstacles to the enjoyment of their rights due to their age. UPR Info believes that through active participation in the UPR, young people can be empowered to play a vital role in their own development as well as in that of their communities. The UPR can help them to develop knowledge on human rights and human rights protection systems and to promote positive civic action.

As a continuation of the efforts put in place in previous years, UPR Info strengthened capacity building activities for young people. UPR Info was able to deliver tailored training sessions to young people from Senegal and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In all the training sessions organised, UPR Info has integrated a gender-based approach, and made links with the SDGs. UPR Info believes that young people's involvement in human rights issues and gender equality are indispensable for the effective implementation and monitoring of the SDGs, and of the UPR mechanism.

The partnerships with young people and youth-led organisations, such as CODAP and other actors have led to much greater outreach in 2022. In particular, partnerships with NHRIs provided UPR Info the opportunity to work with young people in the MENA region through two initiatives. The first one was organised by the National Commission for Human Rights of Morocco and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). In view of the 4<sup>th</sup> UPR of Morocco, UPR Info

participated in the workshop entitled "Youth participation in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)". 18 young people from the 12 different regions were informed on the rules and best practices to draft a report for the UPR. Following the training, the young participants constituted a coordinating group called "Collective Union of Moroccan Youth for Protection of Human Rights" and successfully submitted a report. The second initiative was the annual regional seminar organised by the DIHR for its partners in the MENA region. The purpose of this regional seminar was to bring all DIHR's partners in the MENA together to offer them a platform to exchange ideas on how to include youth rights and concerns within the preparation phase of UPR reporting through an inclusive and participatory approach.

### *Raising awareness of the UPR among high school students*

In the context of a visit to the United Nations, and more specifically to the debates of the UPR Working Group, UPR Info conducted an introductory session on the UPR to 60 high school students. In addition to observing the debates of the UPR Working Group, the students were able to discover how the mechanism works to help them demystify it, and how different stakeholders can get involved in the mechanism. They were presented with practical examples of how young people can participate in the UPR to advance their human rights concerns.

## 2.7 Academics: Bringing the UPR to Universities

To follow the commitment taken in 2021 through the Memorandum of Understanding with the Padua University and the UPR branch of the OHCHR, UPR Info engaged in reinforcing university students' knowledge, skills, and competencies to advocate for the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms. In 2022, UPR Info continued the collaboration with

Beyond working with university students, UPR Info also intensified the activities with professors and PHD Candidates. Thanks to the collaboration with the Geneva Human Rights Platform and the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, UPR Info was able to train Professors from Indonesia and Vietnam on their role with the UPR process.

*“The training will be useful in monitoring the implementation of UPR recommendations in my country. It will also enable to build the capacity of fellow Human Rights practitioners and work together towards the realisation of human rights”*

*Civil servant.*

the University of Geneva and the University of Padua to facilitate information sessions on the UPR with students enrolled in International Relations and Human Rights Programmes. For the first time, UPR Info participated in the summer school organised by the University of Rioja. This initiative aimed at providing a forum for debate on the challenges and solutions that influence the global progress in the new post-covid scenario.

In addition, UPR Info supported the students in the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Padua Model UPR. By playing the roles of State delegates, NGOs, and National Human Rights Institutions, students from over 15 countries gained first-hand experience in the UPR procedure and assessing States' human rights records. The simulation also integrated UPR Info's Pre-sessions model, to ensure adequate representation of civil society.

The partnership with the Geneva Platform for Human Rights resulted in the organisation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Course “The Universal Periodic Review and the UN Human Rights System: Raising the Bar on Accountability”. The course largely focused on the nature of the implementation of UPR recommendations at the national level. The lecture series included practical exercises to highlight the new pathways the UPR is progressing towards for the realization of human rights by using examples, including stories from the presenters' experience, to illustrate the different stages of the mechanism.

*“The training is very relevant as the UPR has become an important mechanism for human rights accountability”*

*NHRI member.*



## The UPR: Beyond Reporting

UPR Info launched a new study entitled “The UPR: Beyond Reporting: Transformational Changes on The Ground” on how the UPR process led to an improvement of the human rights situation at the national level. The publication, supported by FES, was launched at a side event on the margins of 50<sup>th</sup> Human Rights Council, and was attended by Member States, civil society organisations (CSOs), journalists and researchers.

*The UPR mechanism contributes to... “creating a human rights culture, fostering transparency and accountability, strengthening national institutions, raising the voice of people living in vulnerable situation to name a few of its achievements”*

*Mona M'Bikay, UPR Info's Executive Director*

By focusing on a set of good practices developed by States, CSOs and other stakeholders, the study features 17 case studies and shows how UPR recommendations contributed to reinforce national efforts to achieve concrete and transformative progress. The development

of a national strategy to combat racism, racial discrimination and other forms of intolerance, the decriminalisation of abortion, the establishment of a national human rights institution, and the elaboration of a public policy to combat HIV/AIDS are just some of the examples showcased in the report. The case studies presented in the study demonstrate how the UPR offers various opportunities to advance human rights.

*“It's a universal mechanism but there is not a universal formula to achieve change”*

*Valeria Reyes, author of the study.*

A broad range of factors, such as the synergies among national actors, the social political context and different strategies used are key factors that lead to the improvement of situations on the ground. In addition to providing guidance and inspiration to different stakeholders on how to creatively engage with the UPR, the case studies presented serve as an input for policy makers and practitioners in the 4<sup>th</sup> UPR cycle to continue reflecting on the different paths that can be followed to advance human rights.

# 03 In-Country Programme

## UPR Info In-country Programme follows two objectives:

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

## Results Achieved

In 2022, the In-country Programme (ICP) has built the CSOs, NHRIs, Government officials, Judiciary, Parliamentarians, and resident embassies. Based on the five-steps approach: stakeholder submission workshop, in-country pre-session, UPR strategy workshop, multi-stakeholder engagement, and mid-term reporting workshop, the programme provides a dynamic engagement to all stakeholders throughout their UPR process. Each step was carefully designed to respond to the needs of various stakeholders. In 2022, activities were conducted in the following countries: Madagascar, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Togo, Nepal, Bangladesh, and South Africa. The year of 2022 also marked the external evaluation of the Programme's three-year project covering 2020-2022. UPR Info is pleased with the overall findings and notes the following achievements of the project:

- Increased capacity of stakeholders to engage in the UPR;
- Increased advocacy of CSOs/ NHRIs before the UPR on human rights issues with State actors;
- Enhanced contribution of national stakeholders in reporting, monitoring, and follow-up of the implementation of UPR recommendations;
- Contribution to an improvement in human rights in some countries and progress towards improvements in all target countries;
- Highly relevant, practical, and effective trainings provided by the team;
- Creation of long-term commitment and trust with national stakeholders;
- Achievement of the goal of triggering both more frequent, and more effective dialogue between stakeholders groups;
- Providing drivers for success to CSOs; opportunities for engagement with advocacy target groups, stronger advocacy strategies, and safe spaces where marginalised groups can speak about their rights, and duty-bearers are encouraged to engage.





### 3.1 MADAGASCAR: UPR Mid-term reporting workshops

- A series of **6 workshops** took place in 2022 in Antananarivo, Madagascar. A total of **154 representatives** from CSOs, the NHRI, the government, the parliament and the resident diplomatic community took part in the different events.
- 4 stakeholder-specific workshops on UPR mid-term reporting and implementation as well as on Treaty Bodies' reporting were implemented through a **joint mission with the Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR Centre)** (workshops with CSOs, the NHRI, the government and the parliament).
- At the mid-term reporting workshop, CSOs evaluated the implementation levels of more than **70 UPR recommendations**. A 3-day follow-up workshop was later conducted in order for the 5 thematic groups to discuss the contributions of their respective members and consolidate their input to the joint CSO mid-term report. All contributions have been finalised in November and compiled in December for the presentation to resident embassies.
- Following the workshop with **parliamentarians**, they requested a joint letter from UPR Info and the CCPR Centre outlining the importance of setting up a parliamentary committee specialised in human rights.
- A UPR mid-term meeting was held between CSOs and the resident international and diplomatic community in Antananarivo. **CSOs briefed diplomats** about the level of implementation of the UPR recommendations.

*"We will involve other members of our network in the next steps and/or other training so that we can decentralise the mid-term report writing and do the UPR evaluation."*

*CSO representative from Madagascar.*



### 3.2 KYRGYZSTAN: UPR Mid-term reporting workshops and good practices in UPR monitoring

- A total of **70 representatives** from CSOs, the Ombudsman Institute, the National Preventive mechanism against torture and the government took part in 3 workshops on UPR mid-term reporting and good practices in the UPR implementation phase.
- A total of **93 UPR recommendations** were assessed by CSOs and the Ombudsman Institute at the 3-day workshop (that is 40% of the recommendations). Participants used the 400+ human rights indicators they developed in 2021 and early 2022 to evaluate the implementation levels at mid-term stage. A draft CSO mid-term report is in the process of being finalised.
- 2022 saw the first UPR-specific workshop organised by UPR Info for **governmental stakeholders** in Kyrgyzstan. In December 2022, the government approved the 2022-2024 National Action Plan on Human Rights, which includes the UPR recommendations.
- CSOs and NHRIs discussed and planned several **joint dissemination and advocacy** activities around the submission of the UPR mid-term report, thus consolidating their collaboration.
- A follow-up workshop on UPR mid-term reporting for CSOs as well as a specific training on UPR mid-term reporting for the NPM offices **have been postponed until early 2023** due to the flow of Russian refugees in the region, including Kyrgyzstan from mid-October when a partial mobilisation has been announced in Russia. This has significantly increased the transportation and hotel costs in the capital city. This made it impossible to keep the follow-up activity in 2022 within budget with several participants travelling from 5 regions to Bishkek.

### 3.3 GEORGIA: Multistakeholder engagement on monitoring the implementation of recommendations

- UPR Info organised **3 workshops** in 2022, which gathered **83 participants**: a follow-up webinar on civil society action strategies, a workshop on UPR monitoring for civil society and a workshop on UPR monitoring and implementation for governmental stakeholders.
- CSO and the Public Defender Office representatives divided into 6 thematic groups to develop **76 indicators** to monitor 11 UPR recommendations.
- The 3 branches of the government could exchange information about their participation in the UPR process and on how to monitor the implementation of recommendations in a coordinated manner. Governmental representatives divided into 5 groups and developed **33 indicators for 7 recommendations**. They then evaluated the level of implementation of these 7 recommendations using their indicators.
- **89.8% of all participants** indicated that the workshop increased their knowledge about how to identify human rights indicators to monitor the implementation of UPR recommendations.

*“The training/workshop was useful, namely good practices and practical examples and exercises. Some new ideas have appeared during the workshop, notably on how to plan future steps and work.” Government representative from Georgia.*

*“The workshops consolidated actors who were very split and made them listen to each other. This meant that they heard about rights issues that were ignored before. For example, LGBT issues had been ignored before, but those people were represented and understood, and recommendations about their rights have been accepted.” Georgian CSO leader*

*“I would like to be part of the following processes. Additionally, the proposed steps for better advocacy and implementation process to be supported: 1. Preparing mid-term consultation with UPR Info. 2. Pre-sessions. 3. Human Rights sessions advocacy platform.”*

*Civil society representative from Georgia.*



### 3.4 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: National multi-stakeholder discussion on UPR mid-term assessment

- A series of webinars to sensitise CSOs, youth and journalists and to raise awareness about the UPR, strengthen the capacities of these stakeholders and their interactions with other national and international actors, draft UPR mid-term reports and launch national consultations on the assessment of implementation. A total of 182 people, including 66 women representing the IACHR and various ministries, CSOs, media, and youth, were sensitized and/or strengthened in their capacity to engage around the UPR process, follow-up to UPR recommendations, and preparation of a consolidated mid-term report.
- Three stakeholder-specific workshops on UPR follow-up, presentation of UPR mid-term reporting assessment and diplomacy were organised in Kinshasa in November.
- A half-day workshop session for journalists to sensitise them about their role within the mechanism, guidelines for reporting on human rights and monitoring implementation, as well as presenting some resources and tools to facilitate their work. As a result of the webinars and this in-person session, a network of journalists reporting on human rights was established.
- A half-day multi-stakeholder conference and workshop gathering CSOs, members of the NHRC, members of government and parliament as well as from the international community. At the end of the presentations of the different mid-term reports and assessments, diplomats present in the room were able to ask questions to national stakeholders on implementation efforts.

*"I would like to congratulate you all for your diligence and the quality of your work. We now have quality information on the basis of which the Democratic Republic of the Congo can validly present the progress made and measure the challenges still to be met for the advancement of human rights in the country. ... You can be proud of the culture of results, the working methods and the spirit of collaboration that we have gradually built up over the last few years. I am confident that we will continue along this path, in order to better respond, with the support of technical and financial partners, to the aspirations of rights holders."*

*M. Abdoul Aziz THIOYE, Director of MONUSCO*



- The Government (through its inter-ministerial committee), NHRC and a CSO coalition each presented their assessment on UPR implementation at mid-term, based on reports drafted, consultations held, and efforts carried out by all stakeholders to implement received recommendations.
- For the first time in the DRC, a constructive and objective dialogue on assessment of implementation between recommending states and national stakeholders was held, based on indicators developed at national level.
- A joint project with the Stakeholders Engagement Programme was launched, selecting a grassroots CSO to receive funding and technical support for the implementation of a UPR recommendation. The selected CSO will work on the implementation of recommendations related to statelessness, a topic that gained attention during the multi-stakeholder assessment workshop held in November. For more information on this project, see the stakeholders' programme section.

These activities were organised in cooperation with the Carter Center, MONUSCO, FPADO, UNESCO, the Ministry of Human Rights of the DRC and its inter-ministerial committee, the DRC's NHRI and the support of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### 3.5 GUINEA: Multi-stakeholder discussions on the UPR

- The “national CSO coalition for human rights and the UPR” held consultation meetings with the National Transition Committee (CNT in French) on the UPR, continued its radio talks about the recommendations received and, in cooperation with UPR Info, had a series of webinars for members of Parliament on this unique UN mechanism. As a result, the CNT has been active in the international sphere discussing its UPR process in synergy with SDG implementation, as well as has committed to “take all feasible measures to eradicate torture ... in cooperation with national and international partners” - Dr Zalikatou Diallo, Ministre de la Citoyenneté et de l'Unité Nationale.

UPR Info would like to acknowledge the efforts taken by Guinean CSOs during these challenging times and applaud their visible results in advancing human rights through a cooperative spirit.

*“Recently we have been talking to journalists, and this was the first time they had worked on the UPR – now they talk about it a lot. And the government know they will be asked about it.”*

*“The government are more ready to collaborate with us now. Before, they would find excuses not to meet with us, they could brush us off. But they had to listen to our reports, and that gave an importance to civil society.”*

*CSO leader, Guinea*

### 3.6 TOGO: UPR Action strategies workshop and the development of human rights indicators

- UPR Info and its local partners co-organised **3** workshops in 2022 and 1 Training of Trainers which gathered a total of **127 participants** from civil society, the NHRI, and the government.
- **90%** of CSO and NHRI representatives indicated that the UPR Info workshops allowed them to create and/or strengthen links with other national stakeholders as well as to establish thematic coalitions and to conduct joint NHRC-CSO advocacy in many areas. Groups of CSOs were thus able to approach local authorities (municipal, communal, administrative) as well as embassies using the UPR recommendations relating to the theme as a tool for action and advocacy.
- Prior to the adoption of the recommendations, consultation sessions between CSOs and the NHRI, as well as between CSOs, the NHRI, and the government, took place in March 2022, before the final decision on recommendations was sent by the government to Geneva early April 2022.
- 56 actions or activities were identified by CSOs for the implementation of **23** UPR recommendations.
- As an exercise, ICRR members (government) developed **38** indicators to monitor **9** UPR recommendations. Good practices from governments in the UPR implementation phase have been shared with representatives from **17** different ministries.

*“Thanks to the workshop on UPR action strategies, the programme department of our NGO will formulate programmes and projects taking into account the UPR recommendations.” A CSO from Togo*

*“This was one of the best human rights workshops I have attended. The presenters are very knowledgeable about human rights issues and conveyed them to us in a very clear manner. NB1 - The exercise is very informative.” Government representative from Togo*

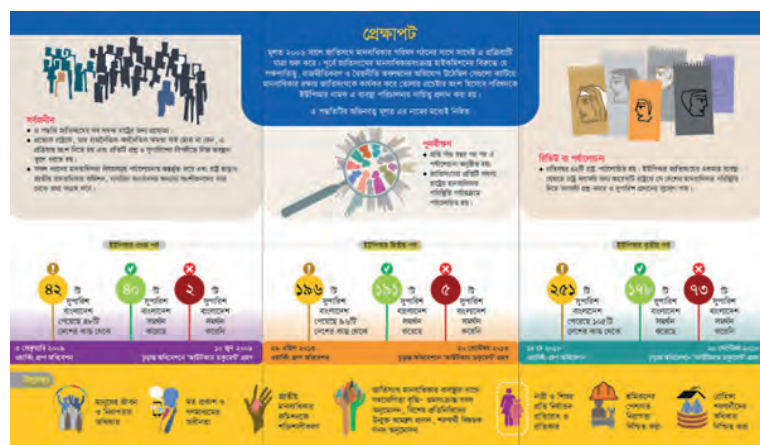
*“What UPR Info have been able to do is to develop a suite of trainings that meet the needs of different audiences – from small CSOs to Human Rights Commissions.”*

**National Human Rights Commission, Togo**

### 3.7 BANGLADESH: National consultations before UPR 4<sup>th</sup> cycle

The shift of calendar in the UPR cycle allowed for one extra year of implementation in Bangladesh. Taking advantage of the opportunity, the National UPR coalition, led by Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) and UPR Info's National Focal Point took the time to be innovative with this UN mechanism and conducted a series of activities aimed at making the process as inclusive as possible. Such activities include:

- A series of webinars on the UPR, and the particularities within the context of Bangladesh. These webinars took special care to adapt to the needs of people living in vulnerable situations and people living with disabilities.
- A flyer was developed in Bangladesh that described the UPR process, the Bangladesh experience, and an analysis of the recommendations received by thematic issues. The flyer was accompanied by an invitation to participate in the process.
- A series of consultations with university students country-wide about the UPR, their needs and in preparation for the upcoming cycle.
- A package of factsheets developed that updated the mid-term review assessment report developed by the coalition the previous year.
- An advocacy campaign aimed at recommending states to inform them about the level of implementation as assessed in the UPR mid-term reports and updated factsheets.
- A hybrid workshop on how to draft a UPR stakeholder's report following the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle reporting guidelines.
- The development of a documentary combining visual presentation and interview footage of the UPR process in Bangladesh. This documentary, which will be made available soon, focuses on sharing good practices for engagement from different stakeholders that have participated in the UPR process – from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, parliamentarians, journalists, members of the NHRC to CSO representatives.



Flyer in Bangladesh which describes the UPR process and the last 3 UPR cycles

*“With the support of UPR Info, we are currently having dialogues with the youth on the progress of implementing UPR recommendations which is [the] first time in the country.”*  
*“Before this, young people were not consulted, and they were left out from the process.”*

CSO leader, Bangladesh

### 3.8 NEPAL: National multi-stakeholder discussion



2022 allowed for UPR Info to deliver in-person training in Nepal to CSOs, the NHRI and members of government, parliament, as well as the judiciary. This support was a combination of efforts from UPR Info's national focal point, our partner organisation INSEC as secretariat of the national UPR CSO coalition, UNDP, and the Government of Nepal. As such, the following events successfully took place:

- A series of webinars on the UPR and the role of CSOs in advocating during the implementation phase.
- A series of webinars and hybrid seminars that allowed CSOs and the NHRI to finalise their action strategies to support implementation of received UPR recommendations.
- A two-day UPR indicators workshop for CSOs and the NHRI allowing participants to prepare for their presentations of a monitoring plan during the upcoming multi-stakeholder dialogue.
- A one-day preparatory workshop for members of the Government on how to develop indicators for human rights monitoring.
- A one-day multi-stakeholder engagement workshop where CSO members, members of Government and the NHRI each presented the progress made in developing human rights implementation plans. The workshop allowed for a fruitful dialogue between the above-mentioned stakeholders as well as members of the judiciary and parliament.

*“Nepal has many challenges as a federal republic, capacity building and data collection for the regions is one of those challenges. This workshop has given us inspiration for the way forward and for developing an online tool to track progress, using indicators.”*

*Nepali Government Representative*



## 3.9 SOUTH AFRICA

### Other Stakeholder's report

On 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022, the South African Human Rights Commission and the OHCHR's Regional Office for South Africa invited, in collaboration with UPR Info, a group of civil society representatives and its own commissioners to live-stream the webinar. The webinar focused on technical guidelines and good practices for writing a "UPR Other Stakeholders" report ahead of the fourth UPR review of South Africa in November 2022.

- Built the capacity of **17** representatives from CSOs and NHRC, **47%** of these representatives were women.
- Reports reflected impacts of Covid-19 pandemic on the enjoyment of human rights as well as an analysis of the implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle thematic recommendations by using the OHCHR's tool "UPR matrix".

### National in-country Pre-session

Continuing ICP's support in South Africa for the 4<sup>th</sup> UPR cycle, UPR Info in collaboration with the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) and the Human Rights Institute of South Africa (HURISA) organised a two-day advocacy workshop in Johannesburg for CSO and SAHRC representatives.

- This workshop was followed by an in-country national pre-session and a human rights café that allowed participants of the workshop and civil society representatives to present to the international community the assessment of implementation of previously received UPR recommendations and put forward their desired recommendations for the upcoming cycle.

- To ensure the success of the pre-session, UPR Info also delivered a webinar to members of the diplomatic community on their role within the UPR. It is worth mentioning that this workshop and pre-session allowed, for the first time, the active participation of a child speaker in an in-country pre-session. As a result of the in-country pre-session many of the recommendations put forward by CSOs were retransmitted during the Working Group of South Africa, a stronger collaboration between CSOs has been established, as well as a strengthened relationship between CSOs, the OHCHR RO-SA's office and the embassies in Pretoria.

To further support the CSOs efforts around the UPR, UPR Info gave access to a group of CSO members to its e-hub. You can read more about this experience in the DKIM programme section.



*"The platforms we have been given – there's no way we would have got those on our own. We would never have been able to engage with the embassies, to give them the view of these issues in our country."*

*South African CSO leader*

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

UPR Info is continuously discussing with women participants on how to ensure a safe and enabling space for their full participation. 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. Through ICP trainings, a systematic focus is shed on the key elements of conducting a gender analysis to encourage participants to integrate it into their organisational work. Within activities, women's rights are addressed as a separate theme and women's perspective is at the centre stage of other umbrella groups, for example, women's political participation, or women's access to education and healthcare. In supporting CSOs and NHRIs to make suggested recommendations, UPR Info enables them to apply a gender analytical framework which assess social roles, norms and behaviour defined by gender, the resulting implications of human rights issues on girls and women and how to address them in UPR recommendations.

These recommendations are conveyed in the in-country Pre-session to ensure that Recommending States are equipped to make them to the State under review. In the follow-up phase, UPR Info works with national stakeholders to address structural barriers to gender equality by encouraging strengthened accountability mechanisms and capacity for the collection of gender disaggregated data. Each activity collects gender-disaggregated data which determines the number of women participants and the result measured against the objective of equal gender balance between participants.

# Digital Innovation and Knowledge Management Programme

# 04

In the last few years, UPR Info has undergone a digital transformation that has included the development of an entirely new website, an updated database employing machine-learning technology, and the creation of an e-learning platform. We are committed to strengthening UPR Info's capacities through a comprehensive digital transformation of its programs in order to ensure long-term and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders with the human rights monitoring mechanisms.

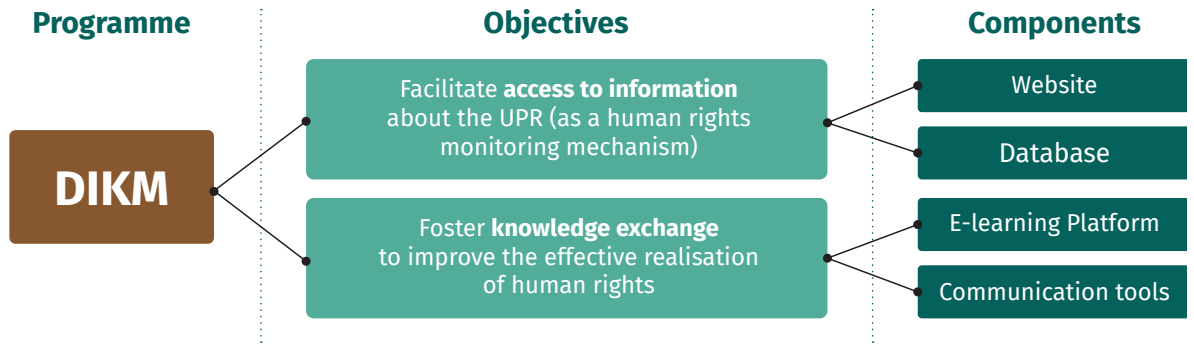
This programme was born early in 2022 and is structured around two objectives:

1. Facilitate access to information about the UPR (as a human rights monitoring mechanism)
2. Foster knowledge exchange to improve the effective realisation of human rights

Beyond the design of the new website, the digital transformation process has been an enormous challenge for the organization. It has necessitated a complete examination of how our organisation projects itself and provides easy access to information to all stakeholders.

Throughout 2022, the DKIM program has used new technology and innovative techniques to improve distant learning and make the UPR more accessible via the website and social media.

By the end of 2022, DIKM had the following structure:



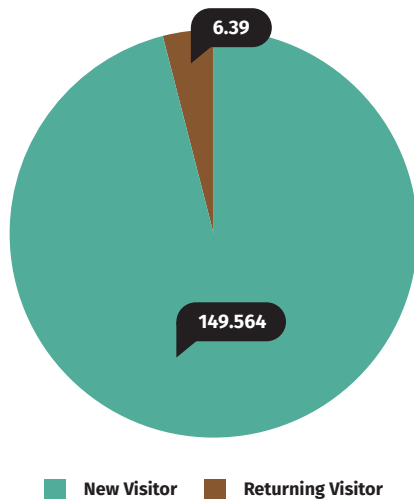
We are presenting below the achievements of three components of the programme.

### 4.1 New Website

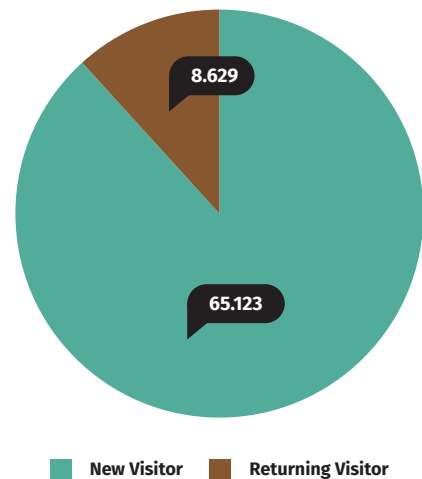
On May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022, the new website was launched. Beyond providing detailed information about the UPR mechanism, our website focuses on showing more clearly what UPR Info does and how it engages with different stakeholders through our programmes.

We have noticed a significant increase in the number of new users from the time of launch till December 2022. To put this statistics into context, the previous year might be compared to 2021. Between May and December of 2021, 88% of all visitors were first-time visitors. In 2022, new visitors accounted for 96% of all users over the same time period.

New users 9 May - 31 Dec. 2022



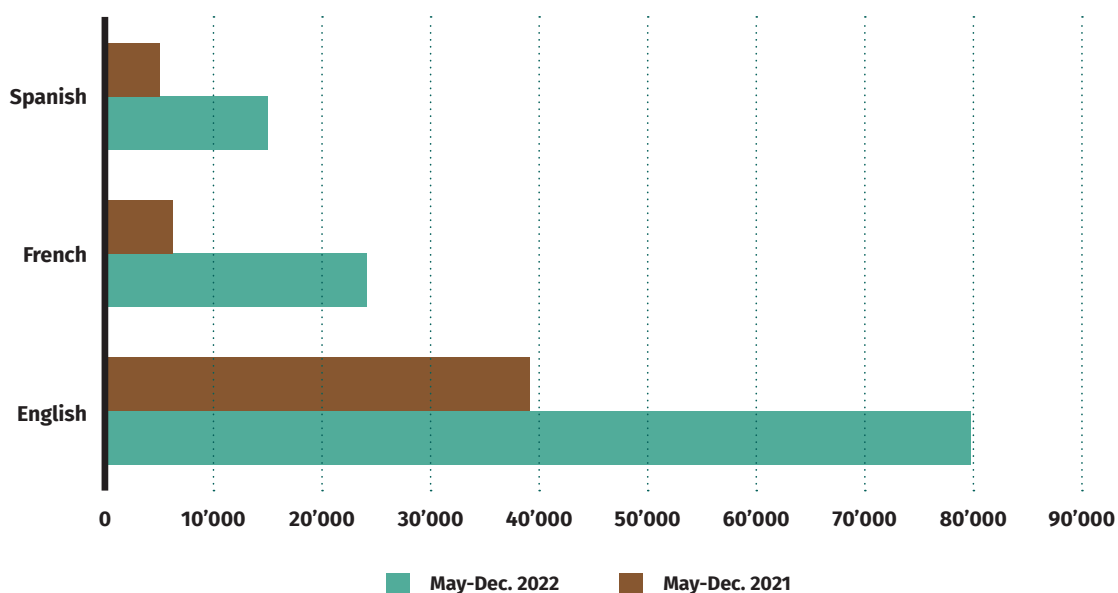
New users 9 May - 31 Dec. 2021



UPR Info’s website accessibility has considerably improved in the last year. One of the objectives we set for the new website was to make it more user-friendly and intuitive, as well as to allow visitors to access content in three languages: English, French, and Spanish.

As we have unified and attempted to keep our site updated in all available languages, we have found that with the inclusion of French and Spanish, more of our site is now being consulted in all three languages. The main interface is still in English, but users are gradually learning that additional language options are available and that the content is kept up to date

## User Languages



\*Other user-origin languages are represented in very few percentages. This is the case for Russian, Chinese, and Arabic among others.

## 4.2 Most Searched Topics and Behaviour According to Access by Language

The previous website had 160.325 page views in 2021, and the most searched subjects were UPR general information, Pre-sessions, job/ internship opportunities, and the function of CSOs. The average amount of time spent on the pages was two minutes. The most often consulted language was English, followed by a very low percentage of French and then other languages.

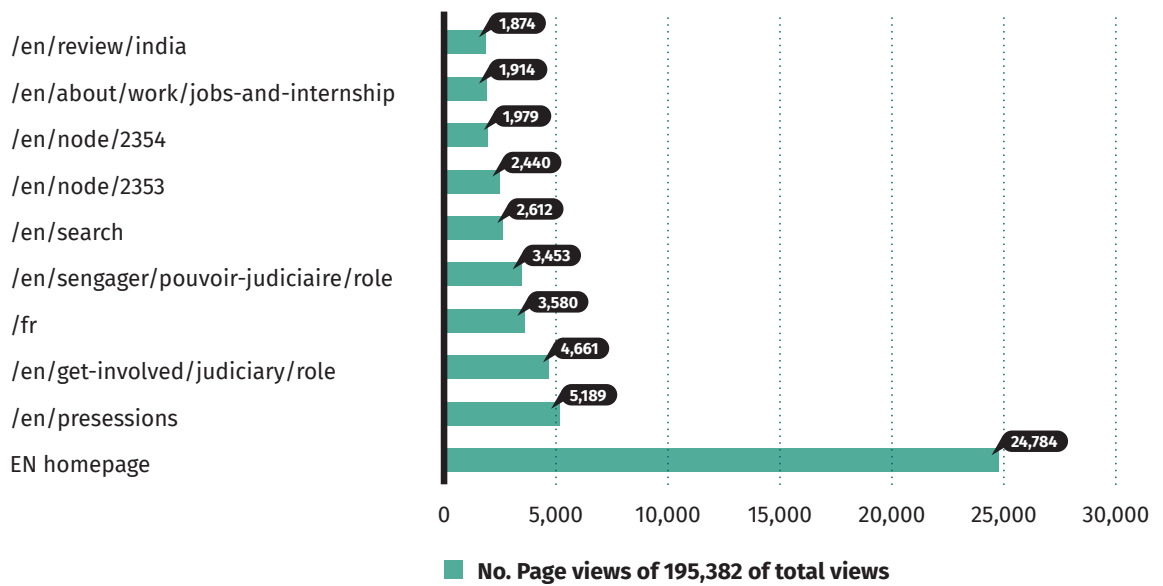
Page	No. Page views
/en	16'584
/en/upr-process/what-is-it	5'609
/es/upr-process/what-is-it	4'827
/ar/How-to/Role-NGOs	4'098
/en/about/jobs-and-internship	3'808
/en/upr-process/pre-sessions	2'049
/fr/upr-process/what-is-it	1'963
/fr	1'710
/ar/upr-process/what-is-it	1'631
/en/review	1'558

No. page reviews during May-December 2021

Users engage with our website for a basic overview before moving on to specialized branding actions of our organization, as with the prior website. The specificity of the information demanded has changed. As shown in the picture below, the information sought is linked to the role of stakeholders: The total number of pages viewed from May 9 to December 31 was 195.382. Repeated views of a single page are counted.

During that period, the average amount of time people spent on a given page, screen, or series of pages was 3 minutes. This means that if we investigate a topic in depth, the amount of time the user spends on it will vary. The average time spent on the English main page, for example, was 1:10min, but the average time spent on a single issue such as the role of the judiciary was 6:19min.

### "Top10" Page views: overview

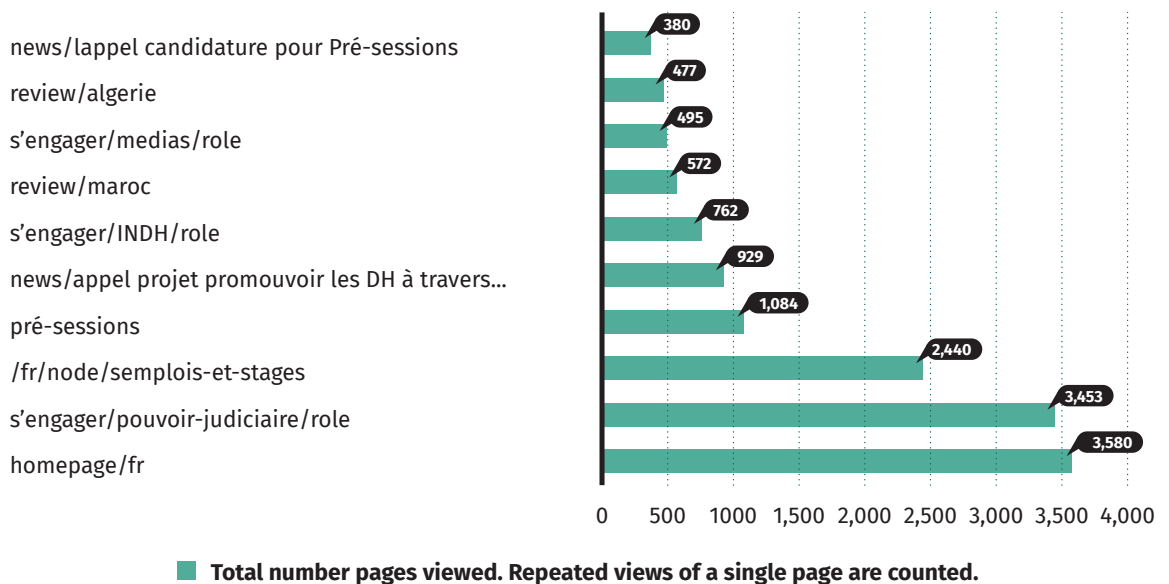


The "Top ten" page views differ depending on the language.

Users spent an average of 3:30min on the French page of the website, and tend to consult the section related to the involvement of various stakeholders, and the job/internships part.

Pre-sessions remain a popular page for users to view. A substantial number of visitors to country pages with the source language in French are becoming more visible.

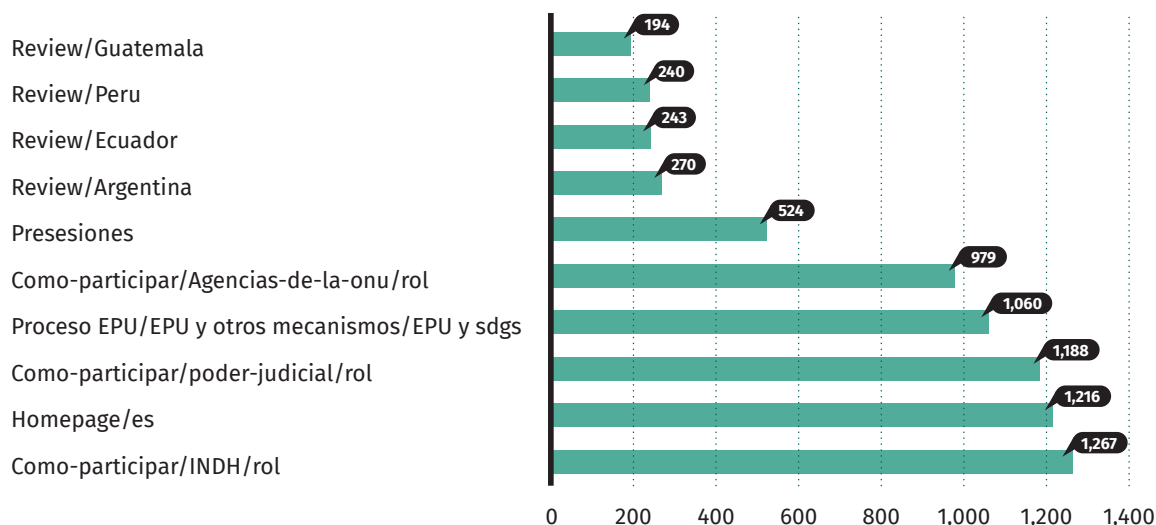
### "Top10" Page views in French section



The act of visiting precise information on the respective country page is visible in the Spanish part. It is also worth mentioning that the desire to learn more about the mechanism and the

role of stakeholders is stronger than the theme of the pre-sessions or the job/internship segment.

## "Top10" Page views in Spanish



■ Total number pages vies: total umber of pages viewed. Repeated views of a single page are counted.

The data presented above, obtained in the short time after the new website’s introduction, confirms the gradual increase in new visitors as well as the importance of continuing to encourage accessibility through the availability of several language choices.

Another critical aspect is the necessity to market the website’s new tools, which include a search engine, specific information for each stakeholder, and a video library.

### 4.3 The UPR Info e-Hub

The e-Hub aspires not only to make technological tools more accessible, but also to foster a diverse and inclusive community of practices. The purpose is for UPR stakeholders to share knowledge and broaden the scope of their actions. We completed the platform’s construction in 2022, which includes five major modules: the basics of the mechanism, advocacy, reporting, monitoring, and implementation of UPR recommendations.

The e-Hub is integrated into each program at UPR Info to sustain the organization’s impact, broaden its reach, and continue to respond to capacity-building requests most effectively and substantively.

## 4.4 e-Hub testing phase

The completion of the module design process led to the following stage in verifying that the e-Hub is fit to meet the goals and expectations of learners: testing it in a closed environment. The initial step was to invite our professional guest speakers to participate in the first test and provide feedback. This phase was critical since they were not only specialists in their field, but they also assisted DKIM in ensuring that gender analysis and a human rights-based approach were properly included into the modules.

The comments from the first round of external testing was quite valuable. Some comments highlighted the e-Hub being a welcome and required tool, as well as demands for access to the module once the platform is formally released. UPR Info was able to improve the content of the modules and the accessibility of the e-learning platform by receiving information into how an outside learner viewed them.

UPR Info and the DKIM programme would like to especially thank Mrs. Gaynel Curry, Expert Member of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent, Mr. Francesco Notti from the OHCHR's UPR Branch, and Adriana Quinones Director, UN Women Liaison Office in Geneva for their time, dedication, and constructive input in the process.



**Mrs. Gaynel Curry**

Expert Member of the  
Permanent Forum of  
People of Africa Descent.



**Mr. Francesco Notti**

OHCHR's Branch



**Adriana Quinones**

Director, UN Women  
Liaison Office in Geneva

The UPR basics module was operational after the first testing phase, and the DKIM program could put it to the test with small external groups. Here are a few examples:

### **Pakistan:**

#### **Pre-session preparation for NHRI and UN Women-Pakistan**

For two weeks before to their arrival in Geneva during the Pre-sessions week, a group of nine people representing the National Commission on Women and UN Women-Pakistan got access to the «UPR Basics» module. The delegation, which was supported by UN Women, requested detailed information about the UPR process in order to make the most of their advocacy week. The course, despite being self-paced and given remotely, was directed by a UPR Info trainer, making it more interactive and engaging, and it was complemented by a mini webinar to answer any lingering questions that may have occurred during the e-learning process. This method has proven to be the most effective and impactful for learners.

The UN Women-Pakistan participants shared their insights on what worked best for new users of the platform. Their input helped in the improvement of the e-learning module, notably by recognizing the necessity for a first course opening meeting in order to gradually invite participants to the course. The feedback we obtained from participants was used to efficiently refine the training.

### **South Africa:**

#### **Expanding the in-country activities' reach**

A group of 24 South African human rights defenders got the opportunity to participate in the «UPR Basics» training, which was led by an expert UPR Info trainer. The group formed through the ICP program operations in the country, with the goal of expanding the reach of capacity building beyond the in-person activity held in September in Johannesburg. In order to accomplish this, participants had access to the platform while guaranteeing that their learning process was not affected by power outages or internet outages (load shedding). The group was made



up of human rights defenders from various regions of the country who were looking to strengthen their knowledge and share best practices in the field.

Participants from South Africa were able to contribute another valuable perspective on the e-learning module. This step of testing covered the module’s features, such as surveys, technical accessibility, and even the certificate of participation after the course. It helped us better comprehend the facilitator’s role and importance of timely feedback.

*“Now I understand the UPR mechanism and how it works. The experience gained as an activist and a member of CSO made it easier to understand HRBA and how SDGs implementation can be monitored and held the state accountable.”*

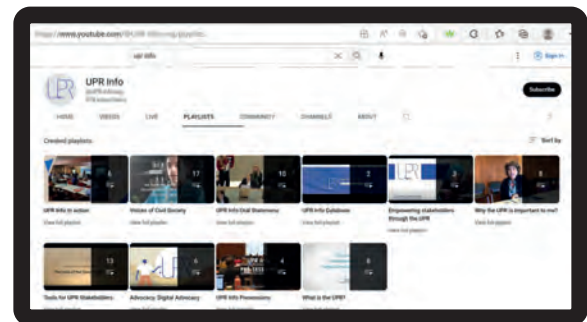
*“Very relevant! Especially within the context in which we find ourselves at this particular time in our country. Written more familiarly and understandably and relates to our daily life issues.”*

*“This course was very informative and a real guide to when we are now doing work on the ground. Thank you.”*

## 4.5 Communication Tools

Communication tools are essential for increasing reach, not just in terms of information but also in the manner in which information is communicated. The UPR Info YouTube channel has also been revamped.

We have transitioned from using this space just to store our video production (tools, interviews) to having a cleaner, more organised channel with material categorised by topic.



We will gradually work toward subtitling all videos in three languages to improve accessibility, as well as using additional features available on YouTube to create a dynamic and interactive communication channel.

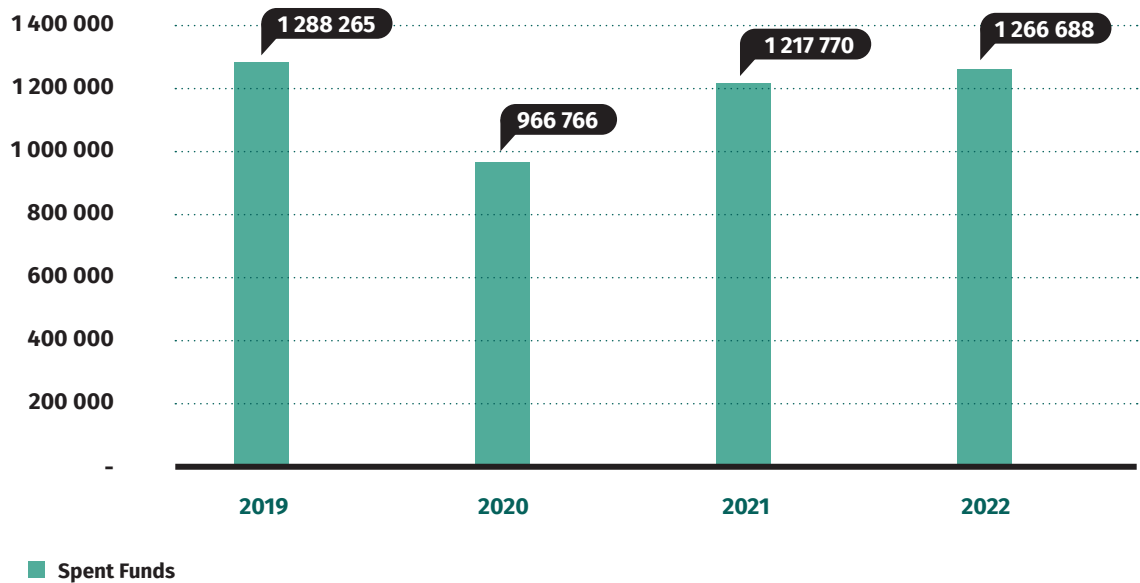
# 05 Finance and Human Resources

## 5.1 Income

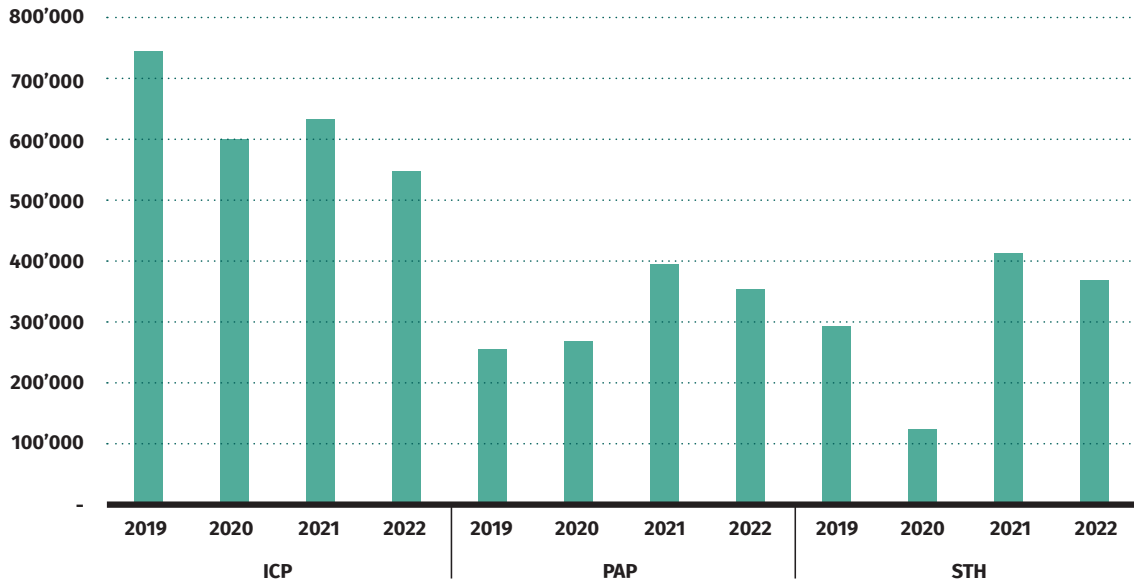
In 2022, UPR Info's Financial Statement was independently audited by Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC). UPR Info achieved a balanced financial result, ending the year with a positive result of CHF 10'897.01.

The funding, however, remains tied to specific projects and is short-term (usually for a duration of one to three years). UPR Info is continuing its efforts to raise unrestricted funds, in order to ensure the long-term stability of activities carried out in the target countries and to make it possible to focus on new opportunities in general.

### Spent Funds 2019–2022



## Spent funds Programmes 2019–2022



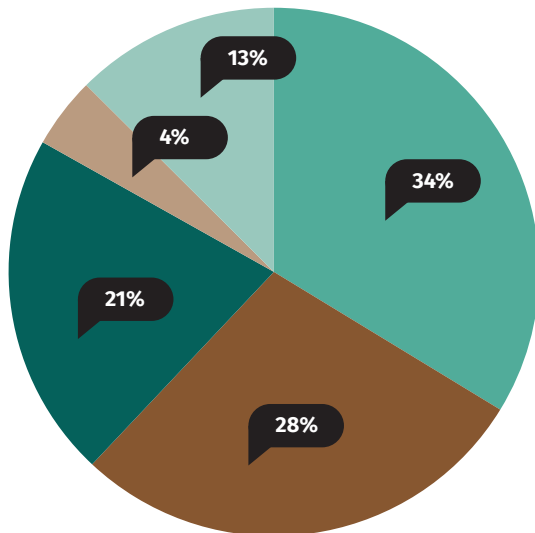
### 5.2 Affected funds

UPR Info has continued to grow as an organisation with an increasing budget over the years, except for 2020 and 2022, when it saw its annual funding decrease due to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and to the loss of one major donor in 2022. UPR Info continues its fundraising activities and positive signals were given by donors renewing their grant for a period of two to three years.

Furthermore, UPR Info continues to increase its revenues thanks to funds received from the delivery of tailored training courses not covered under project grants.

#### Policy and Advocacy Programme (PAP)

The PAP programme consolidated the funds and the planned expenditures have been met in 2022.

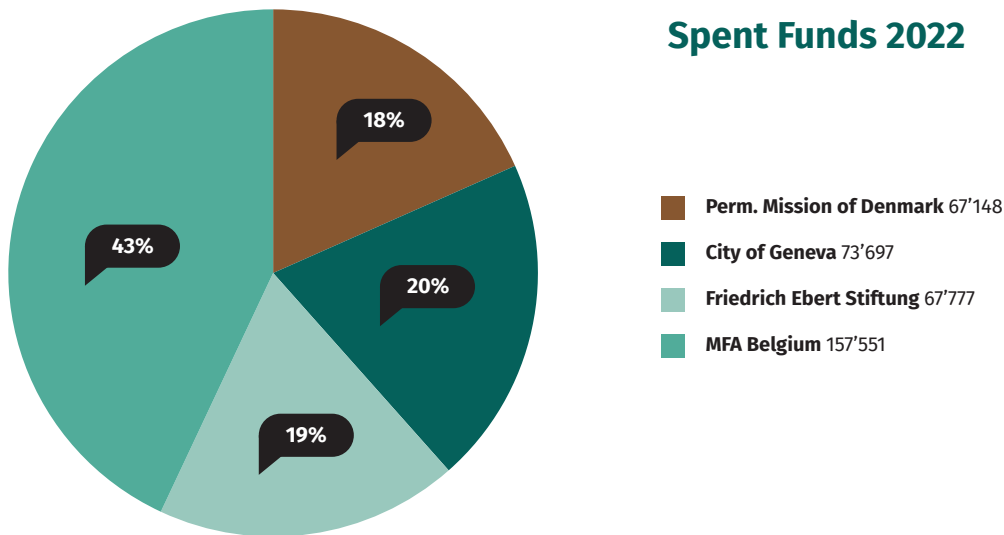


#### Spent Funds 2022

- MFA Switzerland 119'271
- Canton of Geneva 100'000
- Irish Aid 74'800
- OIF 15'3265
- Perm. Mission US 44'199

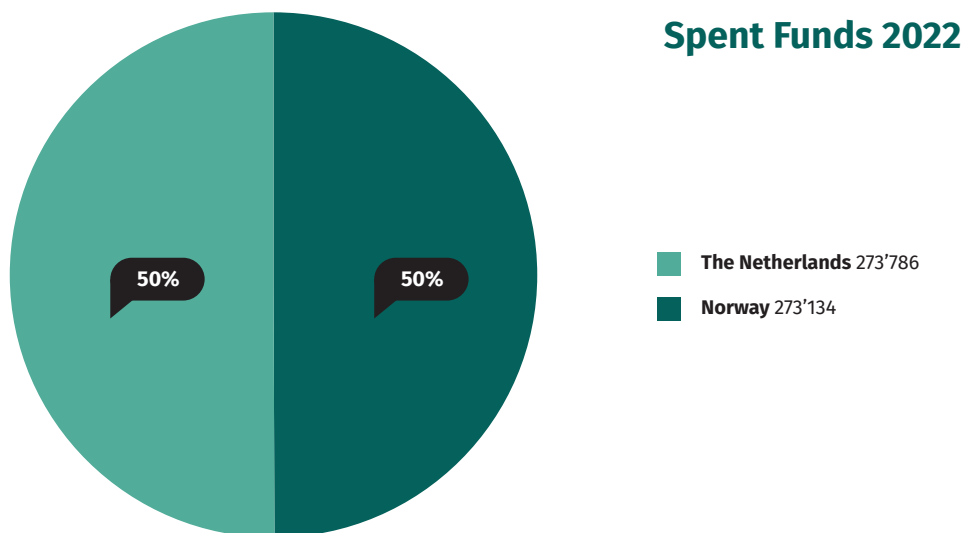
### Stakeholders Engagement Programme (SEP)

Thanks to the funds secured at the end of 2021, the SEP increased the expenditures for 2022. This resulted in increasing the number of stakeholders supported by the programme and in the development of a new publication on the impact of UPR recommendations.



### In-Country Programme (ICP)

Even though one of the donors supporting the ICP did not renew its support in 2022, the programme adjusted the workplan to provide continuous technical support in the target countries.



### Digital Innovation and Knowledge Management Programme (DIKM)

The income of UPR Info in 2022 was impacted by a decline in financing from some contributors. The DIKM assisted other programs by conducting online workshops, while the program benefited from their financial contributions for its development.

## 5.3 Balance Sheet and Result Account 2022

**Bilan / Balance Sheet**  
**au 31 décembre 2022 / as at 31st of December 2022**  
(avec chiffres comparatifs 2021 / with 2021 comparative)

ACTIF / ASSETS	2022	2021
Liquidités / Cash (Annex 7)	420'500,86	757'157,81
Actifs de régularisation / Transitory assets (Annex 8)	16'963,68	19'665,05
<b>Actifs circulants / Current assets</b>	<b>437'464,54</b>	<b>776'822,86</b>
Garanties / Guarantees (Annex 9)	4'906,46	4'906,37
<b>Actifs immobilisés / Permanent assets</b>	<b>4'906,46</b>	<b>4'906,37</b>
<b>Total de l'actif / Total Assets</b>	<b>442'371,00</b>	<b>781'729,23</b>
<b>PASSIF / LIABILITIES</b>		
Dettes à court terme / Short term debts (Annex 10)	41'326,54	65'982,55
Charges sociales dues / Social benefits to be paid (Annex 11)	2'701,25	0,00
Passifs de régularisation / Payable and accruals (Annex 12)	83'938,27	99'894,75
<b>Capitaux étrangers à court terme / Short term liabilities</b>	<b>127'966,06</b>	<b>165'877,30</b>
Capital / Capital	15'402,48	15'402,48
Fonds affectés / Restricted Funds (Annex 13)	154'418,72	466'762,72
Fonds libres / Unrestricted Funds	133'686,73	133'686,73
<b>Capital - Fonds affectés et libres / Capital - restricted and unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>303'507,93</b>	<b>615'851,93</b>
Bénéfice ou Perte de l'exercice / Profit or Loss current year	10'897,01	0,00
<b>Total du passif / Total liabilities</b>	<b>442'371,00</b>	<b>781'729,23</b>

**Compte de résultat 2022 / 2022 Result account**  
**du 1er janvier au 31 décembre / From 1st of January to 31st of December**  
(avec chiffres comparatifs 2021 / with 2021 comparative)

	2022	2021
Subventions de projets / Grant for projects (Annexe : Mouvement des fonds affectés / Movement of affected funds)	951'268,43	1'435'428,28
Recettes propres / Own revenue	103'572,48	103'146,70
<b>Produits / Incomes</b>	<b>1'054'840,91</b>	<b>1'538'574,98</b>
Ateliers et séminaires / Workshops and seminars	-139'716,32	-95'956,16
Accords de partenariats / Partnership agreements	-186'256,02	-131'039,41
Publications et Vidéos / Publications and Videos	-24'057,45	-12'948,75
Plateforme et Site Web et service en ligne/ Platform and Website and online tools	13'532,26	-149'934,34
Salaires et charges sociales / Salaries and social charges	-817'158,55	-768'827,91
Frais administratifs et frais courants / Administrative costs and Running costs	-58'691,31	-60'681,11
Overheads	-92'247,18	-94'480,91
Gouvernance et Organisation / Governance and Organization	-52'540,07	-6'330,95
Charge financières / Financial charges	-2'228,46	-717,50
<b>Charges / Expenditures</b>	<b>-1'359'363,10</b>	<b>-1'320'917,04</b>
<b>Résultat net avant variation des fonds/Net result before variation of funds</b>	<b>-304'522,19</b>	<b>217'657,94</b>
<b>Mouvements des fonds affectés/Movement of affected funds</b>	<b>315'419,20</b>	<b>-217'657,94</b>
Attribution aux fonds affectés/Allocation to affected funds	-951'268,43	-1'435'428,28
Utilisation des fonds affectés/Used of affected funds	1'266'687,63	1'217'770,34
<b>Résultat / Result</b>	<b>10'897,01</b>	<b>0,00</b>

## 5.4 Movement of affected funds for the year 2022

	<b>Mouvement des fonds affectés de l'exercice 2022</b> <b>Movement of affected funds for the year 2022</b>				
	<b>Attribution / Attribution</b>				
	<b>01.01.2022</b>	<b>Affectation Allocation</b>	<b>Utilisation Spent</b>	<b>Solde Plus Balance Plus</b>	<b>Solde Moins Balance Minus</b>
<b>Projet de soutien aux Parties Prenantes (STH)</b> <b>Support to Stakeholders Project / (STH)</b>					
Mission Permanente du Danemark 2020-2021 Permanent Mission of Denmark	34'661,10	32'487,00	67'148,10	-	-
Ville de Genève 2020-2023 City of Geneva	-13'604,71	89'323,00	73'697,41	2'020,88	-
Wallonie Bruxelles Internationale International Brussels Wallonie	-1'997,50	1'997,50	-	-	-
United-Nations Women United-Nations Women	-8'229,81	8'229,81	-	-	-
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)	15'080,63	52'696,00	67'776,63	-	-
MAE Belgique MFA Belgium	206'460,00	-	157'550,62	48'909,38	-
	<b>232'369,71</b>	<b>184'733,31</b>	<b>366'172,76</b>	<b>50'930,26</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Projet de Suivi /InCountry (ICP)</b> <b>Follow-up Project / InCountry (ICP)</b>					
MAE Pays-Bas 2021 MFA Netherlands	128'345,63	145'440,00	273'785,63	-	-
MAE Norvège 2021 MFA Norway	-	273'134,12	273'134,12	-	-
	<b>128'345,63</b>	<b>418'574,12</b>	<b>546'919,75</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Projet Politique et Plaidoyer (PAP)</b> <b>Policy &amp; Advocacy Project / (PAP)</b>					
DFAE - Programme Pre-sessions FDFA - Pre-sessions Programme	-18'100,00	138'100,00	119'270,54	729,46	-
Canton de Genève (SSI) 2020 Canton of Geneva (SSI)	-	100'000,00	100'000,00	-	-
Irish Aid 2020-2023 Irish Aid 2020-2023	74'799,90	97'610,00	74'799,90	97'610,00	-
Organisation Int. de la Francophonie (OIF) Organisation Int. de la Francophonie (OIF)	-	12'251,00	15'326,20	-	-3'075,20
Mission Permanente des Etats-Unis 2021-2022 Grant 1 Permanent Mission of the United-States 2021-2022 Project 1	21'952,98	-	21'952,98	-	-
Mission Permanente des Etats-Unis 2021-2022 Grant 2 Permanent Mission of the United-States 2021-2022 Project 2	22'245,50	-	22'245,50	-	-
Mission Permanente du Luxembourg Permanent Mission of Luxembourg	5'149,00	-	-	5'149,00	-
	<b>106'047,38</b>	<b>347'961,00</b>	<b>353'595,12</b>	<b>103'488,46</b>	<b>-3'075,20</b>
Capital / Capital	15'402,48	-	-	15'402,48	-
Fonds libres / Free Fonds	133'686,73	-	-	133'686,73	-
	<b>149'089,21</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>149'089,21</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Mouvement / Total Movement</b>	<b>615'851,93</b>	<b>951'268,43</b>	<b>1'266'687,63</b>	<b>303'507,93</b>	<b>-3'075,20</b>

\* Paiement reçu / Payment received 28.04.2023

## 5.5 2022 Donors

UPR Info's activities were supported by 11 donors in addition to international and national partner organisations in 2022. 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.

### Foundations or international NGOs

*Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)*

*Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie*

### Institutional Donors

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs Belgium*

*Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland*

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands*

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway*

*Irish Aid*

### Local Donors

*Canton of Geneva, Service de la Solidarité Internationale*

*Ville de Genève (City of Geneva)*

### Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva

*Permanent Mission of Denmark*

*Permanent Mission of the United States*

## 5.6 Internal Organization Structure



### UPR Info Executive Board 2022

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

**Mr. Patrick Wall** (Australia)  
Treasurer

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

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

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



### UPR Info team 2022

*Ms. Mona M'Bikay, Executive Director*

*Ms. Nargiz Arupova, Programme Manager*

*Ms. Laura Sinner, Programme Officer*

*Ms. Tenar Lorente, Programme Officer*

*Ms. Nicoletta Zappile, Programme Manager*

*Ms. Ashleigh Shields, Programme Manager*

*Mr. João Rebelo, Programme Officer*

*Ms. Camille Miguet, Programme Officer*

*Ms. Claudia Caicedo, Programme Manager*

*Ms. Saïda Laurent, Administration and Finance Manager*

*Mr. Daniel Mueller, Administration and Finance Manager*

*Ms. Catia Rizzo, Administration and Finance Assistant*

### Internship Programme 2022

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

*Ms. Marie Colnot*

*Ms. Artina Fejzullahu*

*Ms. Priscila Mallmann Bianchetti*

*Ms. Nisso Käser*

## 5.7 Codes of Conduct and Policies

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

Organisational policies and procedures (2012/2016/2018/2020/2021)

- 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)
- Risk Management Policy (2021)

# 06 Way Forward

---

Moving forward, UPR Info will build on its achievements in 2022 and continue to work toward its mission of promoting human rights through the UPR by strengthening the capacities of multiple actors, including government and non-state stakeholders, to improve the human rights situation of all segments of society across the 193 UN Member States. As the fourth UPR Cycle unfolds, UPR Info's programmes will continue to design and conduct actions to strengthen the UPR process effectiveness, increase multi-stakeholder participation in the mechanism, and promote global human rights realisation. The sections that follow detail the approaches that UPR Info's four programmes will use in the future to ensure that the organisation's goals are met.

The Policy and Advocacy Programme will extend on the policy side in order to improve the effectiveness of the UPR mechanism. In 2023, we aspire to get more involved in Human Rights Council discussions in order to support the UPR as a fundamental tool for promoting human rights. We will organise several side events related to the mechanism in order to raise awareness of the UPR's potential to enhance human rights. In terms of advocacy, we will continue to organise Pre-sessions so that civil society can fully participate in the UPR process.

Through the Stakeholders Engagement Programme, UPR Info is committed to continuing to provide 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 its partnerships. Strong partnerships with other NGOs and international organisations are an essential tool for achieving impact. Among the priorities identified in the next strategic plan, UPR Info will aim at increasing youth participation in the UPR through capacity building activities in the next year. To make their participation more effective, UPR Info will develop proper tools on how they can use the UPR to access their rights. In addition, UPR Info is committed to a goal of being more inclusive and will make efforts to develop new tools accessible to youth and people with disabilities. Integrating SDGs and encouraging UPR key actors to raise issues linked to economic inequalities also remain a priority in the coming year.

In 2023, the ICP will begin another three-year phase, 2023-2025, based on the previous one's lessons learned. It will seek to broaden UPR Info's reach to national stakeholders by sharing information and tools for effective participation in the UPR process, with a special emphasis on the implementation of recommendations. The ICP intends to expand its reach, notably in Africa, as a result of his experience and network.

As the DIKM program expands, it hopes to address specific stakeholders one-on-one. To encourage young people to participate in the UPR process, a training module on youth human rights defenders will be designed. This module will aim at building advocacy their skills so that their voices are heard and taken into account in decision-making processes and the implementation of UPR recommendations in their communities. Furthermore, UPR Info is planning to launch the e-Hub in 2023. It will be functional in three languages English, French and Spanish, expanding its reach to different regions of the world.

On an organisational level, UPR Info began the process of developing its new strategic plan by conducting an online survey to determine how its partners and beneficiaries view its strengths and where the need for technical assistance resides in order to establish its new five-year orientation, which coincided with the fourth UPR cycle. Simultaneously, the organization will look for new funding sources to consolidate its initiatives, assure the sustainability of its programmes, and respond to increased demand for capacity building.







**UPR Info**  
**3, rue de Varembé**  
**1202 Geneva**  
**Switzerland**

[info@upr-info.org](mailto:info@upr-info.org)



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