

Process Adopted by NHRC, India for Monitoring the Implementation of 67 Recommendations

First and foremost, NHRC, India developed a framework indicating action required on each of the 67 recommendations along with its monitorable outcomes as it felt this would not only provide information about the existing ground realities on a range of issues but also facilitate in providing a road map for improving the gaps therein. The 67 recommendations were grouped under 16 major heads¹. This exercise was initiated in October 2012 and continued in 2012 and 2013 with significant stakeholders who included among others national human rights institutions and civil society organizations. Simultaneously, the NHRC wrote to the respective Ministers of all the relevant Ministries to inform the progress it had made towards implementation of UPR-1 and UPR-2 recommendations.

The framework was completed in February 2014 wherein it identified the specific Union Ministries², 16 in all, on whose part action was required. The NHRC further ensured that the completed framework was forwarded to all these Ministries and other stakeholders besides posting it on its website (www.nhrc.nic.in) for wider dissemination. As response was received from only four Ministries (Minority Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Justice and Rural Development), NHRC again addressed letters to the

¹ Convention Against Torture, Police, Judiciary, Women/Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Women/Other Issues Concerning, Child Labour, Protection of Children, Children – Right to Education, Trafficking, Vulnerable Groups, Freedom of Religion, Social Welfare Programmes, Right to Work and Labour, Disabled and Elderly, Cooperation with UN System/Special Rapporteurs, and Miscellaneous.

² Ministries of Home Affairs; Rural Development; Women and Child Development; Human Resource Development; Law & Justice; Health & Family Welfare; Minority Affairs; Labour & Employment; Social Justice and Empowerment; External Affairs; Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution; Drinking Water & Sanitation; Information & Broadcasting; Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation; Finance; and Tribal Affairs.

concerned Secretary of each of the 16 Ministries including NITI Aayog calling for a meeting in the Commission. These meetings were convened by the Secretary General while some by the Joint Secretary (Training & Research) during the first half of 2015. In these meetings a brief orientation was given about the UPR along with the framework developed by NHRC. This was followed by a discussion on the action taken by their Ministry on the recommendation(s) pertaining to their work. Despite these efforts and reminders, exact information did not come forth from most of the Ministries, a handful of them failed to submit even this.

Thereafter, NHRC held five regional consultations and a national consultation with representatives of the government, human rights institutions including state human rights commissions (SHRCs), civil society, technical institutions, academics and experts from the viewpoint of perceiving actual ground realities across the country given the diversity of India. More than 500 people took part in these consultations and the information shared was valuable. In the first and fourth consultation held in Chandigarh and Mumbai, government participation was limited, whereas in the second and third held in Kolkata and Bengaluru, the participation of civil society was poor. The same was also true for SHRCs, substantiating the fact that nothing much had changed so far as they were concerned since 2012.
