



UPR Info and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights organize,  
with the kind sponsorship of the Permanent Mission of Portugal:

**A Seminar**  
**Towards a human rights economy: UPR recommendations for ESCR**

**Draft Concept Paper**

Date: Tuesday, 3 October, 2023

Time: 13:00- 14:00

Format: hybrid/ Room XXV

Link: <https://ungeneva-vc.webex.com/ungeneva-vc/j.php?MTID=m6f1dbcd43a5ee1fc3acbac0316aae34a>

As the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) gets deeper into its 4<sup>th</sup> cycle, from November 2022 to February 2027, OHCHR is seeking to further increase the impact of the mechanism at country level and enhance implementation of UPR recommendations for greater fulfilment of human rights globally. Recommending States play a key role in highlighting human rights concerns for action on the ground. OHCHR underscores the indivisibility of rights, whether civil, cultural, economic, political or social rights. In order to ensure a greater balance between civil and political, and economic, social, and cultural rights, we are particularly encouraging Member States to focus on economic, social and cultural rights, and notably economic equality, an issue of significant urgency in our times. The seminar will aim to provide related guidance and good practices to support such recommendations and relevant follow-up.

**Background**

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique, State-driven peer review mechanism whereby the human rights record of all States is reviewed, on an equal footing, by fellow States during an inter-governmental Working Group session in Geneva. The recommendations are the main tool through which the UPR can contribute to the improvement of human rights in the State under Review.

There is scope for Recommending States to increase the number and specificity of recommendations on economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR). This seminar will provide an opportunity to share experiences, including with States already making recommendations on ESCR and those who can already showcase good practices on the ground. It is particularly timely given the promotion by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the framework of a human rights economy, and the role of human rights as a game changer for rescuing the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Focus and Objectives**

The seminar, sponsored by Portugal and organized in partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), will offer state representatives good practices to use the UPR as an effective human rights mechanism to promote the realization also of economic, social and

cultural rights and as an effective mechanism for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The event will be an occasion to inspire Member States representatives to make action-oriented recommendations to promote economic equality and broader enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights.

More specifically, the objectives of the seminar are to:

1. Share specific actions and policies promoting a human rights economy and addressing economic inequality,
2. Highlight the good practices from Recommending States in the formulation and follow up of UPR recommendations to promote economic equality and economic, social and cultural rights.

### **Methodology and format**

The event will be 1 hour long.

The Chair will welcome and orient participants (2 minutes).

The Permanent Mission of Portugal and the Chief a.i. of the Universal Periodic Review Branch will make opening remarks. (8 minutes)

OHCHR will share norms, experiences and guidance on addressing economic inequality and promoting economic, social and cultural rights, including through a Human Rights Economy. The Office will also discuss progressive taxation and provide an overview of the [Repository on UPR good practices of engagement by the UN system at country level](#) and the [Examples of good practice at country level reported in the UPR 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle](#). This section will last 10 minutes.

Following the initial interventions, the moderator will give the floor to four State representatives who will be invited to share good practices on their engagement with the UPR, notably as Recommending States. To prepare the way, we invite the identified States to frame their interventions/comments around the following guiding questions:

- *Can you highlight one example of good practice on ESCR put in place by your country to achieve a change on the ground?*
- *What is your country's experience of highlighting economic, social, and cultural rights in making recommendations at the UPR?*

The intervening States will speak for 5 minutes each. The last segment of the seminar will be open for questions and discussion – 25 minutes.

Wrap-up – 5 min.

### **Speakers:**

1. H.E Mr. Rui Macieira, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Portugal
2. Guillaume Ngefa, Chief a.i., Universal Periodic Review Branch, OHCHR
3. Lynn Gentile, Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch, OHCHR
4. H.E. Gustavo Gallón, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia
5. H.E. Mr. Zaman Mehdi, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan



Chair: Mona M'Bikay Executive Director, UPR Info