



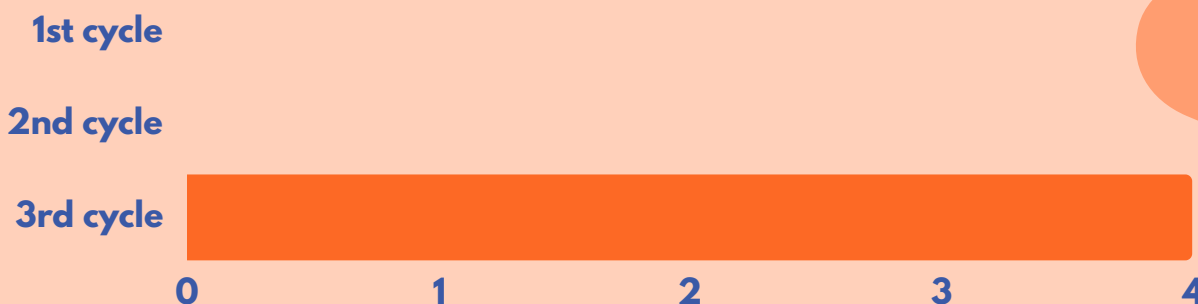
Closing the Digital Divide through the UPR

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a mechanism of the Human Rights Council that reviews the human rights situation in all UN Member States. States provide recommendations for improving their practices in this area.

Although it is a state-led process, the UPR offers significant opportunities for civil society actors to engage and advocate for enhanced human rights in their countries.

Since its establishment, **12** recommendations pertaining to the digital divide have been made in the UPR.

Number of recommendations addressing the digital divide per UPR cycle



So far, in the 4th UPR cycle (2022-2027) there have been **8** recommendations on the topic, all of which have been supported.

Overall
recommendations
supported

12

0 noted



While access to technology has increased over the years, many are still unable to access its benefits, particularly those in rural areas, developing countries, or those living in poverty. As technology can prove essential for accessing information and fulfilling other rights, such as the right to education, ensuring communities have affordable, accessible infrastructure and education for technology is essential.

States can either support or note UPR recommendations. By supporting them, States commit to implementing those measures. UPR recommendations can be utilised by civil society actors in their advocacy efforts at the national level in closing the digital divide.

Examples of UPR recommendations addressing the digital divide

The UPR can reinforce obligations of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)

Panama



Chile



24.113 Integrate a gender- and human rights-based approach into public policies aimed at closing the digital divide in all its facets, guaranteeing the privacy and security of people in digital environments.

29.206 Take more effective measures to close all digital divides, including measures to make Internet access more affordable and accessible to Indigenous Peoples.



Republic of Korea



Mexico

To find out how you can engage in the UPR to support your human rights cause, visit our website at upr-info.org or contact us at info@upr-info.org.