



**6** CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



# Realising the Right to Water and Sanitation 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.

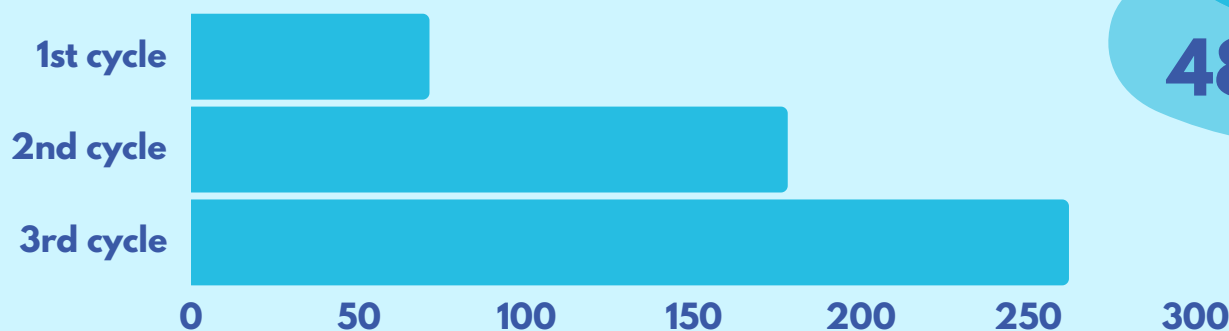
Since its establishment, **652** recommendations addressing the right to water and sanitation have been made in the UPR.

Overall recommendations supported

**598**

**48** noted

Number of recommendations addressing the right to water and sanitation per UPR cycle



So far, in the 4th UPR cycle (2022-2027) there have been 140 recommendations on the topic, out of which 131 were supported and 9 noted.

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Ensuring the right to clean water and sanitation (SDG6) enables health and well-being (SDG3) and contributes to mitigating inequalities (SDG10). Additionally, sustainable development in water and sanitation methods helps preserve ecosystems, contributing to the protection of the environment for current and future generations.

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 championing the right to water and sanitation.

### Examples of UPR recommendations addressing the right to water and sanitation



Including references to the Mandela Rules) and General Comment 15 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights can indeed enhance the specificity of the UPR recommendations

Spain



Belize



*91.96 Ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation in all rural areas of the country and guarantee that schools have safe drinking water and adequate sanitation.*

*143.141 Take urgent legislative and institutional measures to improve access to the human rights to drinking water and sanitation and an adequate standard of living, especially by those in the most vulnerable situations: children, older persons, persons with disabilities and those living in rural areas and water-scarce regions.*



Poland

South Africa

To find out how you can engage in the UPR to support your human rights cause, visit our website at [upr-info.org](http://upr-info.org) or contact us at [info@upr-info.org](mailto:info@upr-info.org).

