



The Universal Periodic Review: Sharing Good Practices in Implementation of UPR Recommendations

Event Concept Note

Date and time: 13:30-15:00 on Thursday, 2 April 2026

Organizers: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UPR Info

With the support of: Permanent Missions of Finland, Malaysia and the Kingdom of Morocco, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Venue: Palais des Nations, Room XV and online

Participants: Member States, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), UN entities, civil society organizations, and development partners.

Background

The Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda highlights human rights as a key problem-solving tool for addressing contemporary development challenges. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that inclusive and accountable governance systems, grounded in human rights, contribute to better development outcomes and ensure that no one is left behind. Over 90 percent of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets are linked to human rights obligations, underscoring the importance of integrating human rights into national policy frameworks.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a central mechanism of the Human Rights Council, reviewing the human rights record of all UN Member States through a peer-to-peer process. UPR recommendations provide an important foundation for advancing sustainable development, strengthening governance, and promoting accountability. They serve as actionable guidance for governments, national institutions, and development partners working to address human rights challenges and policy gaps.

UPR+ represents a strategic effort to move beyond the review phase and support countries in translating recommendations into concrete national action. UPR+ emphasizes implementation, and monitoring across the full UPR life cycle – helping countries integrate recommendations into national development plans, strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement, leverage donor support, and enhance digital systems for tracking progress.

In recent years, countries and national human rights systems have increasingly recognized the need for practical tools and peer learning to support implementation of UPR recommendations, including through emerging thematic entry points such as environmental governance, digital transformation, gender equality, and health systems. Strengthening national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up, improving coordination among stakeholders, and adopting innovative monitoring approaches are essential to ensuring UPR commitments lead to measurable impact.

Held in the margins of the GANHRI Annual Meeting, this side event will share practical experiences and lessons learned across the UPR cycle. The discussion will highlight how UPR+ can serve as a platform for peer learning, technical cooperation, and integrated follow-up – enabling governments, NHRIs and civil society to strengthen their engagement with the UPR process while advancing sustainable development priorities.

Objectives of the event

- Share good practices on follow-up, implementation, and coordination of UPR recommendations, including stakeholder engagement and data collection.
- Highlight innovative approaches to tracking and monitoring recommendations, including digital platforms.
- Explore thematic applications of the UPR – including environment and climate change, digital rights, gender equality, health, crisis and other emerging priorities.
- Strengthen collaboration between governments, development partners, UNDP, OHCHR, UPR Info, GANHRI and NHRIs to advance the UPR as a tool linking human rights and sustainable development.

Programme: Chair/Moderator: Mona M’Bikay, UPR Info

Welcome and intro – Moderator – Mona M’Bikay, UPR Info	5 minutes
Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Anna-Mari Wong Hämäläinen, Deputy Permanent Representative of Finland</i> • <i>Alyson Kilpatrick, GANHRI Secretary, Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission</i> 	5 minutes 5 minutes
Introduction: UPR+ as a platform for implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the UPR+ approach and objectives of the session <i>Julie van Dassen, Human Rights Policy Specialist, UNDP</i> • Presentation on UPR Hub <i>Juliette De Rivero, Chief of Branch, UPR, OHCHR</i> 	5 minutes 5 minutes
Panel Discussion: Sharing best practices in UPR monitoring and implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dato' Seri Mohd Hishamudin Yunus, Chairman, SUHAKAM, Malaysia</i> • <i>Rowen McKinnon-Guy, Equality and Human Rights Commission, Great-Britain</i> • <i>Dr. Tony Ojukwu, Executive Secretary, Nigeria Human Rights Commission</i> 	10 minutes each
Discussion and Q&A Open exchange with participants.	30 minutes
Closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sarah Rattray, Co-Director GRP Hub a.i., Global Lead on Human Rights, UNDP</i> 	5 minutes