

UPR INFO PRE-SESSIONS 53

UPR Info is organising the Pre-sessions 53 to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) from 25 to 28 August 2026 in Geneva, Switzerland. These in-person meetings will take place ahead of the 53rd session of the UPR Working Group and will cover the following countries: [Antigua and Barbuda](#), [the Kingdom of Eswatini](#), [Greece](#), [Hungary](#), [Ireland](#), [the Independent State of Papua New Guinea](#), [Saint Vincent and the Grenadines](#), [the Independent State of Samoa](#), [the Republic of Suriname](#), [the Republic of Tajikistan](#), [the United Republic of Tanzania](#), [Thailand](#), [the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago](#) and [the United States of America](#).

Applicants are required to complete the online application form available [here](#), providing information on their engagement in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Thanks to the generous support of our donors, UPR Info will offer a travel grant to a limited number of selected applicants. Civil society representatives from the following countries can apply for a grant: *the Kingdom of Eswatini, the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, the Independent State of Samoa, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the United Republic of Tanzania*. The grant includes accommodation, airfare, health insurance, visa costs and daily allowance for up to six days in Geneva.

To apply for the grant, please fill out one of the following forms: [the Kingdom of Eswatini](#), [the Independent State of Papua New Guinea](#), [the Independent State of Samoa](#), [the Republic of Tajikistan](#), and [the United Republic of Tanzania](#). Please note that, due to limited financial resources, not all applicants applying for a grant can be selected to receive this grant.

Applicants who do not require financial support should submit their application via the [standard application link](#).

Regarding the Pre-session on the United States of America, only organisations that have submitted an update to their 2025 UPR report to the OHCHR will be considered in the selection process. The update must be included as a mandatory attachment to the application form.

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Pre-sessions is to offer Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) an opportunity to brief Permanent Mission on the human rights situation in the States under review. They provide space for civil society to engage directly in a dialogue with States, ensuring that their suggestions and recommendations are taken into consideration by recommending States in advance of the Working Group.

FORMAT

The Pre-sessions 53 will take place ahead of the 53rd session of the UPR Working Group, which is scheduled to take place from 2 to 13 November 2026. CSOs and NHRIs will be invited to present their assessment of the human rights situation in the country since the previous review **and will participate in a question-and-answer session** with recommending States

following the presentation of the statements. With the principles of **transparency and universality** in mind, all Permanent Missions are invited, including the State under review.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Pre-sessions will offer an exchange of information on the human rights situation of the forthcoming State under review. States will receive **up-to-date information and recommendations in advance of the 53rd UPR Working Group session. Recommending States will also have the opportunity to ask questions to NHRI and civil society representatives to gain insights into the situation on the ground from a first-hand perspective.** The information given will reflect the reality of the human rights situation in the State under review and will represent the concerns of all stakeholders on the ground.

WHAT TO EXPECT

The Pre-sessions are a **forum for collaboration and information sharing.** The meetings fill an expressed need from both State delegations and CSOs to meet prior to the UPR Working Group session to identify, discuss, and further develop recommendations to ensure focused attention to the most relevant human rights issues during the review.

The application process to speak at the Pre-sessions will be opened on UPR Info's website www.upr-info.org until 10 May 2026.

For a comprehensive overview of the event, applicants are invited to consult [UPR Info Pre-sessions: Empowering human rights voices from the ground.](#)

For more information on the Pre-sessions and UPR Info, please visit our website at www.upr-info.org.

UPR INFO

UPR Info is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in Geneva, Switzerland. The organisation aims at promoting human rights through the UPR. It raises awareness and provides capacity-building tools to all UPR stakeholders, including UN Member States, CSOs, and NHRIs. UPR Info is the first NGO entirely dedicated to the UPR.

Since the inception of the UPR mechanism in April 2008, the organisation has developed a unique expertise on the process itself. This knowledge is widely recognised by stakeholders, notably by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). UPR Info is regularly invited to participate in conferences and to provide training on the UPR.

UPR Info's [website](#) and [database](#) are the first source of information on the UPR for stakeholders, including Geneva-based permanent missions as well as national and international CSOs, providing them with useful tools for their participation in the UPR mechanism.