

## FACT SHEET 3: NGO ADVOCACY IN THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

# Model UPR advocacy strategy for NGOs

### ADVOCACY CYCLE

**Note: You can start your involvement at any step of the process**

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| 6 months – 1 year before the review | <p><b>Encourage your State to hold national consultations before drafting its report</b></p> <p>The HRC encourages States to prepare their report through a broad consultation process at the national level with all relevant stakeholders (resolution 5/1). Use this to make sure the State adopts an open and transparent process.</p> |   |
|                                     | <p><b>Take part in national consultations to influence the SuR's report</b></p> <p>If you know that national consultations are taking place, make sure you are invited so that you can advocate for your issues to be included in the SuR's report.</p>   | <p><b>TIP:</b> You can refer to your participation in consultations in your advocacy with target States to reinforce your position, especially if you raised issues during consultations which were not considered.</p>   |
| 4–6 months before the review        | <p><b>Prepare an advocacy paper</b></p> <p>Select key issues to advocate for (4 max.). Draft a short paragraph to explain each issue, and 1 or 2 corresponding recommendations and questions. Include a short paragraph about your NGO. (see template)</p>  |   |
|                                     | <p><b>Identify States you will advocate to</b></p> <p>Use the UPR Info database to assess which States are interested in your issues and draft your advocacy paper accordingly. Check the States that made recommendations during the previous UPR and list States that may have an interest in your country.</p>                         | <p><b>Note:</b> The State has to submit its report 3 months before the review.</p>  |
| 3–4 months before the review        | <p><b>Contact embassies</b></p> <p>Call the embassies of target States to get the contact details of the person working on the UPR. Send them your advocacy paper and make a follow-up call a week later. Request a meeting to discuss the advocacy paper when you send it to them.</p>   | <p><b>TIP:</b> Do not forget to refer to your UPR written submission if you have done one and to the OHCHR compilation if your issues were included.</p>  |
|                                     | <p><b>Consult the OHCHR stakeholder summary</b></p> <p>Read the summary to check whether issues raised in your written submission have been included. If they have, add the references in your advocacy paper and mention it to the States you approach.</p>  | <p><b>Note:</b> Not all embassies have a person dedicated to the UPR nor do they all know about the UPR. If the embassies do not know who is in charge of the UPR, ask for the person in charge of human rights. Be ready to explain what the UPR is during your meeting.</p>   |
| 1–2 months before the review        | <p><b>Consult the SuR's report</b></p> <p>Read the report to see whether your priority issues are addressed. Use this information to introduce your issues and provide complementary information to target States.</p>  | <p><b>TIP:</b> Organise a briefing for several (eg., all European embassies/ all Latin American embassies at once) or all embassies at the same time. It is more efficient and can help initiate discussion.</p>  |
|                                     | <p><b>Contact diplomatic missions in Geneva</b></p> <p>Call the missions to get the contact details of the person working on the UPR or on human rights. Send them your advocacy paper and make a follow-up call a week later.</p>  | <p><b>Note:</b> Check the UN calendar (<a href="http://www.crin.org/resources/events">www.crin.org/resources/events</a>) to avoid contacting them during other UPR or HRC sessions, as diplomatic missions will be too busy to focus on your issues. If such a session is held about 1 month prior to the review, try to target State representatives a couple of weeks before or the week after.</p> |
|                                     |   | <p><b>TIP:</b> Contact Child Rights Connect or UPR Info to get the contact details of the diplomatic missions in Geneva.</p>  |

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| <p>1–2 months before the review (continued)</p>  | <p><b>Participate in the UPR pre-session organised by UPR Info</b><br/>If you are planning to come to Geneva for advocacy meetings, make sure you register for the informal public pre-session which will give you the opportunity to deliver a 5 to 10-minute statement including your questions and recommendations in front of diplomatic missions interested in the UPR of your State (representatives of your country are likely to attend). More details are available at: <a href="http://www.upr-info.org/Pre-sessions,1528.html">www.upr-info.org/Pre-sessions,1528.html</a>.</p> | <p><b>TIP:</b> If you plan to come to Geneva, contact Child Rights Connect before making your travel arrangements to find out about additional meetings and entry points.</p>   |
| <p>THE REVIEW</p>  | <p><b>Attend the UPR of the State in Geneva or follow it online via the webcast</b> (accessible at <a href="http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/">http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/</a>).</p>   | <p><b>Note:</b> Find out if your State is organising a live session to follow the webcast or organise your own and invite key actors and partners, including the media.</p>   |
| <p>2 days after the review</p>   | <p><b>Read the Outcome Report on the OHCHR extranet (or on UPR Info website)</b><br/>If you were unable to follow the review, use this report to assess whether your issues were raised, whether they have resulted in recommendations and whether they were “accepted” or simply “noted”. Report the outcome to colleagues and partners.</p>  |   |
|  | <p><b>Contact the States that incorporated your concerns</b><br/>If a State incorporated your recommendations, contact them to thank them for their support.</p>   |   |
| <p>0–3 months after the review /before the adoption of the outcome report at the HRC plenary</p> | <p><b>Lobby the SuR to accept recommendations that were “noted”</b><br/>Request a meeting with State representatives of the relevant ministries to discuss those recommendations and advocate for them to be accepted when the outcome report is adopted.</p>  | <p><b>Note:</b> Recommendations that “enjoy the support” of the SuR are considered accepted and do not need extra lobbying!</p> <p><b>TIP:</b> Do not forget to involve the national human rights institution of your country and supportive members of Parliament in your lobby.</p> |
| <p>3–12 months after the review</p>  | <p><b>Follow-up on accepted recommendations</b><br/>Follow-up with your government to offer assistance in implementing accepted recommendations, including through a draft action plan.</p>  |   |
|  | <p><b>Maintain a dialogue on noted recommendations</b><br/>If recommendations were noted, follow-up with the State to discuss the reasons why.</p>   |   |
| <p>2–2½ years after the review</p>   | <p><b>Produce a mid-term report</b><br/>Produce your own mid-term report for recommendations of interest and encourage the State to produce a mid-term report tracking the progress made in implementing all the recommendations.</p>  |   |
| <p>3½–4 years after the review</p>   | <p><b>Initiate a dialogue on the next review cycle</b><br/>Encourage the State to hold national consultations involving civil society in an effective manner in preparation for the next UPR.</p>  |   |
|  | <p><b>Follow-up with the embassies/diplomatic missions that made your recommendations</b><br/>Provide updated information on the implementation or lack of implementation of their recommendations, especially if they were accepted and encourage them to follow-up with the State bilaterally.</p>   | <p><b>TIP:</b> The persons you were in contact with may have changed post or left the embassy/mission, so ask for the person who replaced them and follow-up with them.</p>   |
| <p><b>START THE FULL CYCLE AGAIN!</b></p>  |  |   |

For more information on the UPR and advocacy visit

**Child Rights Connect**  
[www.childrightsconnect.org](http://www.childrightsconnect.org)

**UPR Info**  
[www.upr-info.org](http://www.upr-info.org)