

FACT SHEET 3: NGO ADVOCACY IN THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

UPR Advocacy Paper Template

Title of the paper

For example : “UPR [number of the session] session – [Name of the country]”

Name, logo and short description of your organisation (1 to 2 paragraphs maximum)

[Key issue]

For example: “Child labour”

Issue at stake

Explain the issue, why it is important and link it to child rights obligations of the SuR (max. one paragraph).

Mentions in UPR key documents:

Title of the document, page number and paragraph number, note: Only add this line if the issue you raise was mentioned in one of the three reports of the UPR, ie. the SuR’s report, the Compilation of UN Information and/or the OHCHR Summary of Stakeholders’ Information. If you have produced an NGO written submission for the UPR, provide its UN document number and link as well.

Suggested advance questions/questions to ask during the UPR dialogue

Suggest maximum two questions on this issue that States could ask in advance or during the UPR. The questions should be as short as possible and should follow the style that States use when they ask questions under the UPR. Remember that the questions are addressed to the SuR.

Suggested recommendations

Suggest maximum two recommendations on this issue that could be made to the SuR. The recommendations should be short, precise, specific, action-oriented and easy to monitor. They should follow the style that States use in UPR recommendations. Remember that recommendations are made to the SuR only, not to specific national institutions, ministries or bodies.

Provide this information for each key issue. A form that you can fill in and print off is available at www.childrightsconnect.org/UPRAdvocacy-Template

CHECKLIST

Key Elements for Effective NGO Advocacy

- ✓ Prioritise your issues and recommendations: the most effective lobbying focuses on three to four issues with five to six recommendations.
- ✓ Be clear about your advocacy objectives: if your strategy is too forceful, States may not incorporate your recommendations. NGOs should strike a balance between proposing recommendations that the target State will incorporate and that adequately address the gravity of the issue and how it should be resolved. If the State addressed a similar issue in the previous cycle, NGOs should provide an update on the situation and follow-up recommendations.
- ✓ Suggest concise, concrete and action-oriented recommendations that follow the language States use in their recommendations.
- ✓ Substantiate your recommendations with similar recommendations made by international human rights bodies, such as treaty bodies and Special Rapporteurs, that appear in the OHCHR compilation of UN information, where relevant.
- ✓ Highlight positive developments and whether further action is needed.
- ✓ Prepare a short advocacy paper (maximum 2 pages) which includes a short explanatory paragraph for each priority issue and corresponding recommendations highlighting why the issue should be raised and the supporting evidence. Use the Advocacy Paper Template on the other side of this insert or online at www.childrightsconnect.org/UPRAAdvocacy-Template.
- ✓ Identify the State representatives that work on the UPR of the SuR.
- ✓ Contact the relevant State representative directly – never send your advocacy paper to a general e-mail address. Provide a brief explanation about your NGO to demonstrate its legitimacy and authority on the issues.
- ✓ Provide the advocacy paper and follow-up with States to ensure that they received it and check if they need additional information.