



## UPR Info proposal for the Fifth Phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education

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UPR Info is a non-profit non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in Geneva, Switzerland, aiming to promote human rights through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

UPR Info raises awareness and provides capacity-building tools to all UPR stakeholders, including UN Member States, parliamentarians, the judiciary, CSOs, NHRIs, youth groups, media, academia, and diplomats, so that they can use the UPR to advance human rights in their country of residence.

### *Proposal*

Keeping in mind that all phases of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (WPHRE) continue to work in parallel and build on each other, UPR Info suggests that the Fifth Phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education **focuses on the judiciary (judges, prosecutors, lawyers) and legal professionals**. Indeed, these actors are critical to the protection of human rights, particularly in ensuring access to justice and the enforcement of domestic, regional, and international human rights standards to ensure the respect of people's rights and fundamental freedoms. They also serve as the foundation of the rule of law, ensuring prosecution, accountability, and redress in cases of human rights violations. However, they have not been targeted by previous WPHRE phases.

### *Why is targeting these stakeholders important?*

Targeting judiciary actors in the fifth WPHRE would empower these actors to:

- Ensuring that domestic law is interpreted in accordance with regional and international human rights standards and in line with the State's human rights obligations and commitments;
- Reinforcing human rights knowledge and their protection at the domestic level;
- Raising awareness about the justiciability of economic, social, and cultural rights;
- Strengthening access to justice by identifying gaps in the justice system;
- Further referencing to human rights through legal advice arguments and submissions in court as well as judicial adjudication;
- Promoting an enabling legal and policy framework, national plans of action, and appropriate budgets for the administration of justice.

Judiciary actors also contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals 16, including targets 16.3 (Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all), 16.6 (Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels) and 16.C (Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development).

Including human rights training for the judiciary and legal professional would reinforce the implementation of not only regional and international human rights instruments but also the



recommendations made by human rights monitoring mechanisms at the regional and international level (i.e.: recommendations issued during the UPR working group sessions, by treaty bodies and special procedure). Furthermore, working with the judiciary will support their independence which is key to ensure access to justice for all. Finally, it will support the realisation of the Human rights Council resolution on the independence and impartiality of the judiciary (A/HRC/50/L.3).

To achieve this, the Programme could include specific training sessions on human rights and the role of the judiciary in the administration of justice. Specific sessions could also address the regional and international human rights monitoring mechanisms and on how judiciary actors can engage with them, thematic peer-to-peer exchanges among members of the judiciary and sensitization to a gender and human rights-based approach so that the situation of groups living in vulnerable situations and disadvantaged or marginalised individuals is considered in all judicial proceedings.