Overview of ARP Methodology

During the first six years of the Accountability and Remedy Project (ARP), three substantive phases were completed, each of which undertaken in the span of two years. To better understand the challenges relating to grievance mechanisms, and the initiatives likely to be most effective given the diversity of legal systems, structures and traditions around the world, OHCHR gathered empirical information from a wide range of jurisdictions for each ARP phase, covering all UN regional groups. The intention was to focus on areas that require urgent attention and/or that offer realistic prospects of delivering improvements to accountability and remedy in the short-to-medium term. To ensure that ARP recommendations were practical and evidence-based, OHCHR engaged in a similar consultation-based methodology for each ARP phase. The various activities in that methodology are set out below.

Scoping exercise ARP I, ARP II, ARP III	Each ARP phase began with a scoping exercise - to assess the practices and challenges with respect to the mechanism; - to identify areas in need of further research and/or development; and - to propose the scope and methodology for the two-year phase. A draft scoping paper was published, and feedback was received through a public, multi-stakeholder consultation, as well as through written submissions. This paper was then revised to take into account the feedback received.
Questionnaires ARP I, ARP II, ARP III	Each ARP phase allowed for a global online consultation through an "**Open Process Questionnaire**," available to the public in English, French, and Spanish. Additionally, each phase included a series of **targeted questionnaires** meant for particular stakeholders.
General research	**Extensive desk-based research** was conducted which reviewed hundreds of reports, studies, articles, and other materials covering the use and operation of the mechanisms. Additionally, **discrete research projects** were conducted to understand how the mechanism responds in specific contexts or in relation to specific issues. Third parties were encouraged to develop and submit relevant materials.
Targeted research on focus jurisdictions or case studies	A detailed comparative research process was conducted for each ARP phase. For ARP I and ARP II, studies were undertaken on dozens of "focus jurisdictions," representing all UN regional groups and a diversity of legal traditions and levels of economic development. These studies analysed the state of the law in the jurisdiction, as well as the practical experiences of those using or operating the relevant mechanism in the jurisdiction (ARP II had a focus on NHRIs and OECD National Contact Points). For ARP III, numerous case studies were undertaken, covering all UN regional groups and several different types of non-State-based grievance mechanisms.
Data-mining exercise* * for ARP II and ARP III	A data-mining exercise was conducted for ARP II and ARP III which reviewed hundreds of business and human rights-related events, news reports, allegations, and grievances reported to the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre.
Interviews	Over the course of each phase of ARP, many interviews were conducted with relevant stakeholders including rights holders, civil society organizations, lawyers, business, prosecutors, NHRIs, States, and others who have designed or administered grievance mechanisms.
Consultations & participation in events and meetings ARP I, ARP II, ARP III	Each ARP phase involved numerous multi-stakeholder consultations, consultations with particular groups (e.g., rights-holders, business, or States), and participation in different types of events and meetings. For instance, for ARP III, OHCHR participated in over 30 events or consultations in 16 different States covering all five UN regional groups.

Publication of specialized studies* * for ARP I and ARP II	Specialized studies were released during the ARP I and ARP II work. For ARP I, three working papers were published, on: - cross-border regulation and cooperation; - State positions on the use of extraterritorial jurisdiction; and - Joint Investigation Teams in the European Union For ARP II, a sector study was produced on the historical and potential responses of State-based non-judicial grievance mechanisms to adverse human rights impacts occurring in four "focus" business sectors.
Publication of a discussion paper ARP I, ARP II, ARP III	Nearing the end of each ARP phase, OHCHR published a discussion paper covering, among other issues: - activities undertaken; - key observations with respect to the use of the mechanism in addressing business and human rights cases; and - preliminary ideas as to the approach of the ARP report. Feedback was received through a public, multi-stakeholder consultation, as well as through written submissions.
Publication of a consultation draft ARP I, ARP II, ARP III	Following the feedback received on the discussion paper, OHCHR produced a consultation draft of the recommended actions to improve accountability and access to remedy through the relevant mechanism. The purpose of the consultation draft was to elicit feedback from all relevant stakeholders (States, business, civil society, etc.) on the policy objectives and elements to be found in the annex of the final ARP report.
Publication of the final ARP report and addendum ARP I (add.), ARP II (add.), ARP III (add.)	Based on all of the above information-gathering activities, OHCHR developed the final outputs of each ARP phase, which consisted of a main report and an explanatory addendum (how to read an ARP report). For ARP I, a set of illustrative examples of the recommended actions was also published.