**56th session of the Human Rights Council**

**Annual thematic panel discussion on technical cooperation and capacity-building**

**Theme: Enhancing technical cooperation and capacity-building   
in the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations**

***Concept note*** *(as of 8 July 2024)*

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| **Date and venue:** | **Tuesday, 9 July 2024, 3 to 5 p.m.  Room XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva**  *(broadcast live and archived on* [*https://webtv.un.org*](https://webtv.un.org)) |
| **Objectives:** | This year’s panel discussion provides a platform to reflect on activities, good practices, challenges, and lessons learned of coordination among States, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations agencies and other relevant stakeholders to support States’ efforts to implement universal periodic review recommendations through technical cooperation and capacity-building. |
| **Chair:** | **H.E. Mr. Darius Staniulis**,Vice-President of the Human Rights Council |
| **Opening statement:** | **Mr. Mahamane Cisse-Gouro**, Director of the Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights |
| **Panellists:** | * **H.E. Mr. Tormod C. Endresen**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva * **Ms. Adriana Quiñones**, Head of Human Rights and Development and Deputy Head of UN-Women Geneva Office * **Ms. Mona M'Bikay**, Executive Director of UPR Info |
| **Outcome:** | The expected outcomes of this thematic discussion are as follows:   * Activities, good practices, challenges and lessons learned of coordination among of States, OHCHR, United Nations agencies and other relevant stakeholders to support States’ efforts to implement universal periodic review recommendations through technical cooperation are identified and shared. * Awareness by participants of the opportunities for technical cooperation and capacity-building to enhance partnerships and coordination in the context of UPR recommendations, including South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, is improved. * Tools to improve coordination and partnerships between States, OHCHR, United Nations agencies and other relevant stakeholders to support States’ efforts to advance human rights, such as the online repository[[1]](#footnote-2), are discussed. |
| **Mandate:** | In [its resolution 54/28](https://undocs.org/A/HRC/RES/54/28), the Human Rights Council decided that the theme of the annual thematic panel discussion under agenda item 10, to be held at its fifty-sixth session, will be “Enhancing technical cooperation and capacity-building in the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations”. The Council requested OHCHR to prepare a report, to serve as a basis for the panel discussion, on enhancing coordination among States, the Office, and other relevant stakeholders to support States’ efforts to implement universal periodic review recommendations through technical cooperation. The said report will be presented as document A/HRC/56/72. |
| **Background:** | Since its creation, the Human Rights Council has promoted advisory services, technical assistance, and capacity-building in consultation with and with the consent of the States concerned. The Council has also undertaken the universal periodic review (UPR), a unique peer-review process, which examines human rights records of States. The review aims to assess, based on objective and reliable information, the fulfilment by each State of its human rights obligations while ensuring universality and equal treatment with respect to all States. The UPR is complementary to the work of other international human rights mechanisms, facilitates the full involvement of the country concerned, interactive dialogue and cooperation among States and other stakeholders, and gives priority to State’s capacity-building needs. The UPR started its fourth cycle in 2022 with a focus on enhanced implementation of recommendations and its impact at the national level.  Technical cooperation in the field of human rights encompasses the design and implementation of initiatives and programmes to support and advance processes aimed at building and strengthening national and regional institutions, legal frameworks, policies and services, and the capacities of stakeholders that will have positive long-term impacts on the implementation of international human rights obligations. Technical cooperation provided to States to implement UPR recommendations addresses their capacity-building needs and has the potential to facilitate partnerships and collaboration among various actors, including States, United Nations agencies, funds and projects, civil society, development donors and academia.  In recent years the demand for technical cooperation and capacity-building has increased, including requests to facilitate the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations. However, available resources to meet those demands are not enough. Enhancing coordination among States, the United Nations system development actors and other relevant stakeholders to support States’ efforts to implement universal periodic review recommendations is a way to maximize the already limited resources.  The annual panel discussion under agenda item 10 provides a scenario to reflect on good practices and challenges to support States’ efforts to implement UPR recommendations through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, and the critical role that partnerships play to make assistance and capacity-building timely, coherent, effective and efficient. |
| **Format:** | The panel discussion will be limited to two hours. The opening statement and initial presentations by the panellists will be followed by a two-part interactive discussion and by conclusions from the panellists. A maximum of one hour will be set aside for podium interventions, including the opening statement and panellists’ presentations, their responses to questions and concluding remarks. The remaining hour will be reserved for two segments of interventions from the floor, with each segment consisting of interventions from 14 States or observers, 2 national human rights institutions and 4 non-governmental organizations. Each speaker will have 1.5 minutes to ask panellists questions and/or reflect on activities, good practices, and challenges and lessons learned of coordination among States, OHCHR, United Nations agencies and other relevant stakeholders to support States’ efforts to implement universal periodic review recommendations through technical cooperation. The panellists will respond to questions and comments during the remaining time available.  The list of speakers for the discussion will be established through the online inscription system and, as per practice, statements by high-level dignitaries and groups of States will be moved to the beginning of the list. Delegates who could not take the floor due to time constraints will be able to upload their statements on the online system to be posted [on the HRC Extranet](https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/56/Pages/default.aspx). Interpretation will be provided in the six United Nations official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). |
| **Related documents:** | * [Human Rights Council resolution 54/28](https://undocs.org/A/HRC/RES/54/28) of 12 October 2023 on enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights * [General Assembly resolution 60/251](https://undocs.org/A/RES/60/251) of 15 March 2006 on the Human Rights Council * Report of OHCHR on enhancing coordination for technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights to implement universal periodic review recommendations ([A/HRC/56/72](https://undocs.org/A/HRC/56/72) – forthcoming) * Report of OHCHR on the high-level panel discussion on the achievements, good practices and lessons learned by the two voluntary funds for the universal periodic review mechanism of the Human Rights Council ([A/HRC/53/58](https://undocs.org/A/HRC/53/58), 12 May 2023) * Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on improving technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights ([A/HRC/53/63](https://undocs.org/A/HRC/53/63), 8 November 2023) * Report of the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights ([A/HRC/55/78](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ohchr.org%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fdocuments%2Fhrbodies%2Fhrcouncil%2Fsessions-regular%2Fsession55%2Fadvance-versions%2FA_HRC_55_78_AdvanceEditedVersion.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK), 26 March 2024) * [Human Rights Council resolution 51/30](https://undocs.org/A/HRC/RES/51/30) of 7 October 2022 on strengthening the voluntary funds for the universal periodic review mechanism of the Human Rights Council * [Overview of the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review (2022-2027)](https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/uprcycle4), 2024 |

1. See [HRC resolution 54/28](https://undocs.org/A/HRC/RES/54/28), para. 14. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)