

**REVIEW6<sup>th</sup> FRANCOPHONE SEMINAR ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC  
6-7 September 2022  
Palais des Nations, Room XX  
Geneva, Switzerland**

**Mr. Roberto Valent, Regional Director of DCO LAC**

- On behalf of UN Development Coordination Office, I wish to thank the organisers for the invitation and the opportunity to address this important seminar. I feel honored to share this space with such distinguished panelists.
- This is excellent timing for conducting such a seminar, given the end of the Third Cycle UPR and before the Fourth Cycle in November 2022.
- I also congratulate member states and OHCHR for the remarkable achievements since the establishment of the UPR mechanism by the UN General Assembly in March 2006. We hope today's seminar will enable the exchange of good practices and lessons learned and propose concrete recommendations on the way forward, especially on strengthening the implementation and follow-up of UPR recommendations at the country level. The President of the United Nations Human Rights Council Federico Villegas has been clear on the importance of the use of the UPR and its recommendations.
- In May 2022, DCO's report to the ECOSOC on the operational activities of the UN for international development cooperation highlighted the need for redoubling our efforts on human rights integration in our core work to meet the expectations of Member States under the 2020 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review. Member States expect us to support them in meeting their human rights obligations and commitments. Today's webinar is another opportunity to enhance our understanding and analysis of human rights where we work and be more conversant with the UPR as one of the key human rights mechanisms, which facilitates accountability on the country's recommendations on how these are being implemented.
- The Call to Action on Human Rights represents the SG's deep conviction that human rights underpin the work of the UN across the three pillars and that everything we do must be informed by our commitment to making human dignity the core of our work. Such cross-pillar engagement, starting with a joint analysis centred on human rights using UPR recommendations, allows us to identify entry points and actions through which we can address the multifaceted problems we face.

- I am pleased to acknowledge the long-standing partnership DCO has with OHCHR, particularly in maximising the use of the UPR as a central engagement tool in the UN country-level approach to human rights, from the Executive Committee decision 46 in 2019 to the development of the [UPR Practical Guidance](#) in Aug 2020 as part of the UN SG's Call to Action for Human Rights, including the curation of UN good practices into the recent publication on [How The Universal Periodic Review Supports Sustainable Development](#). I invite you to look at this publication which showcases country experiences, and be inspired by the collective challenges and successes.
- DCO annually tracks UN country teams' progress in engaging human rights mechanisms through the annual completion of UN INFO surveys. In 2018, of the 130 UN country teams responding to the yearly survey question on linking and using UPR recommendations in their Common Country Analysis (CCA), 71 did and in their UNDAF/UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework were 83. In 2021, the use of UPR recommendations in CCA was 112 and 99 in Cooperation Frameworks. And in the [Human Rights Mainstreaming Fund 2021 annual report](#) (page 27), their analysis indicated that UN country teams with Human Rights Advisors (HRAs) consistently use the UPR recommendations in their CCAs and Cooperation Frameworks compared to those without dedicated in-country or additional advisory capacities.
- I encourage you and your teams to use the [UNSDG Knowledge Portal on Human Rights and Leave No One Behind](#) for more thematic information and knowledge products that will support your efforts in maximising the use of human rights mechanisms.
- The UPR's fourth cycle in November 2022 is focused on implementing recommendations received and accepted by the State. The role of Resident Coordinators and the entire UN System becomes even more relevant in maximising the use of this human rights mechanism as an entry point for national policies and action on human rights.
- And in line with the UNSDG priority to strengthen support to UNCTs on UPRs and Our Common Agenda's call for a renewed social contract anchored in human rights, DCO Regional Offices have been working with the UPR Secretariat to be available for early dialogues with the RCs of countries with upcoming reviews in preparation of their support to the UPR review of the fourth cycle. Gabon, Tunisia and Morocco are some African countries that have recently participated in this dialogue series.
- In closing, you can count on DCO and the other UN entities that are members of various interagency networks at headquarters and regional levels to support you in this important collaborative journey.