**Mid-term reporting in the 4th UPR cycle**

**Introduction**

An increasingly important feature of the UPR reporting and implementation cycles are mid-term reports submitted by States and other actors involved in the UPR process. HRC resolution 16/21 “Review of the work and functioning of the Human Rights Council” states in section E.18 on follow up to the review that “*States are encouraged to provide the Council, on a voluntary basis, with a midterm update on follow-up to accepted recommendations*”.

As of 27 September 2022, a total of 84 States submitted UPR mid-term reports on a voluntary basis, which are posted as received on a dedicated webpage[[1]](#footnote-2). Mid-term reports are also submitted by stakeholders, including [NGOs](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPR-NGOs-Mid-term-reports.aspx), [NHRIs](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPR-NHRIs-Mid-term-reports.aspx) and [UN entities](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPR-UN-Mid-term-reports.aspx) (UNCT), and are posted as received on dedicated mid-term reports webpages by stakeholder.

**Benefits of mid-term reporting**

Mid-term reports allow for an assessment of the stage at which States are at towards implementing UPR recommendations. The process of preparation of such reports is as important as the outcome and it allows for broad consultations with line Ministries, State entities, local and regional Governments as well as other stakeholders such as the NHRI and civil society organizations. Mid-term reports also present an opportunity for the NHRIs, NGOs and the UN system to detail steps that they are taking towards implementation, including advocacy, institutional building and the development of implementation tools and strategies.

The preparation of mid-term reports foster accountability, allow for the identification of obstacles and opportunities, and have the potential to foster coordination at the national level. Mid-term reports also provide an opportunity for the UNCT to support implementation efforts – including with recommending States, especially when they provide ODA to the State under review, and facilitate States’ efforts for the preparation of national UPR reports.

The letter sent by the High Commissioner to all States since the start of the 3rd UPR cycle following the adoption of the UPR outcome by the Human Rights Council states that UPR mid-term reports are “an important measure that can positively contribute to follow-up action”. The High Commissioner has therefore strongly encouraged all Member States to submit a voluntary mid-term report two years after the adoption of the UPR outcome report.

**An emerging good practice**

A Study on emerging Good Practices from the Universal Periodic Review[[2]](#footnote-3), issued in June 2021, emphasized that collaboration had been a defining feature of the preparation of mid-term reports. Governments across the world have been submitting mid-term reports, following the good practice model of consultation with different national actors.

For instance, the Study describes how the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia actively cooperated with all relevant stakeholders, including representatives of international and non-governmental organization and national human rights institutions in the course of drafting the national or mid-term report, which was presented to them for their comments and feedbacks, with the support of OHCHR. The relevant feedback, comments and observations provided by civil society organizations and other stakeholders were taken into consideration before submitting the final draft of the national report to the Parliament of Georgia for their review and approval. The Danish Government consulted the NHRI (DIHR) on an ongoing basis for the preparation of the mid-term reports The Government of Morocco had involved the NHRI (CNDH) during the development of two mid-term reports. In Malaysia, the NHRI (SUHAKAM) and civil society organizations had provided contributions for the Government’s mid-term reports.

The initiatives taken by States to engage different stakeholders in the preparation of their mid-term reports has allowed for different perspectives on human rights in a given country to be reflected in the Government reports. Such a practice has, however, not restricted the submission of UPR mid-term reports by NGOs and NHRIs either individually or collectively. The submission of NGO/NHRI reports has brought necessary independent perspectives into the mid-term reporting process.

**Formats of submitted reports**

Formats for mid-term reports by States and stakeholders vary and are not uniform. Formats employed have included: (1) a narrative with sub-headings by theme or UPR recommendations; (2) a table listing UPR recommendations, position taken, follow up action, and lead ministries in separate columns; (3) a narrative report with thematic sub-headings and as annex a summary table with recommendations and action taken. Some mid-term reports contain an introductory section on the methodology employed for the drafting of the mid-term report.

Some States have resorted to colour coding to facilitate visualization of information. For example, the mid-term reports for the 3rd cycle of Finland and Luxembourg used a colour code to indicate recommendations fully implemented (green), in the process of being implemented (in yellow) and where implementation measures had yet to be taken (red).

As UPR mid-term reports are voluntary, States and other stakeholders cannot be required to employ a uniform methodology and format. However, uniformity of reports would create efficiencies for States and stakeholders as they could follow a model report. Uniformity will also allow consolidation of inputs received in comprehensive tables for the purpose of comparison between countries, in particular by theme. Finally, common approaches will also facilitate the sharing of practices between States for the preparation of mid-term reports.

With the aim of encouraging more uniformity in reporting formats, the **annex** below provides States and stakeholders with a **suggested template** of a UPR mid-term report, as well as suggestions regarding the contents of each section.

**Annex**

**Mid-Term UPR Reporting - Suggested Template**

1. **Methodology**

*[Description of the methodology and the broad consultation process followed for the preparation of information provided under the UPR Mid-Term report. Clarify whether the report has been drafted within the context of a National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRF) and if so describe the mechanism and the process]*

1. **Executive summary of key developments and UPR implementation**

*[Narrative text summarizing key developments since the review, and main findings on the implementation of specific UPR recommendations. A division by thematic sub-heading could be employed]*

1. **Follow-up to UPR recommendations received**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **UPR recommendation\*** | **Position\*\*** | **Status of implementation\*\*\*** | **Description of activities undertaken, results, challenges\*\*\*\*** |
|  |  |  |  |

\* It is suggested to list UPR recommendations either in ascending order or grouped by theme / issue

\*\* Supported or Noted

\*\*\* The following categories are suggested: (a) implemented, (b) partially implemented, (c) in the process of being implemented, (d) not implemented. Colour coding these categories could be helpful to the reader (for example green - fully implemented; orange – partially implemented; yellow – in the process of being implemented; red – not implemented.

\*\*\*\* This could also include identifying, inter alia, implementing agency and partner stakeholders as well as any tools / resources used to assist implementation (including those offered through OHCHR)

1. **Needs for capacity building and technical assistance**

*[Identification of needs, if any, for technical assistance and support for the implementation of UPR recommendations in the remaining 2.5 years until the next periodic review]*

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1. https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRImplementation.aspx [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/HRBodies/UPR/Emerging_UPR_GoodPractices.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)