Thank you for giving UPR Info the opportunity to speak on this occasion and for the insightful discussion.

Through our work we encourage the meaningful participation of different national actors in the UPR. Since 2022 we have been encouraging the engagement of local and regional government to enhance the implementation of UPR recommendations on the ground by facilitating side events and promoting dialogue among stakeholders. We believe that partnerships and cooperation are key for the successful implementation of human rights.

The establishment of anti-discrimination offices in Utrecht Netherlands, the functioning of local mechanisms for the prevention of torture in the 16 different administrative areas in Argentina, the implementation of a sanitation and solid household waste management project in the main cities of Benin are just a few examples extracted by the reports of the 4th UPR cycle, of how local authorities can make human rights a reality and monitor the cases of violations.

For these reasons, firstly we recommend States to draw on human rights recommendations to reach out local and regional levels to discuss contributions and cooperation opportunities.

And secondly, we recommend States to ensure an enabling environment of work for civil society participation in decision-making processes as participation is key to ensure human rights-based approach in local policies and actions.