

UPR an effective tool to advance human rights at country level

From the SG report to the GA A 72 351 (2017):

“The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development marks a paradigm shift towards a more balanced development model with human rights at its core. As the Human Rights Council universal periodic review enters a new cycle, with every UN Member State now up for a third round of detailed scrutiny, the relevance, precision and impact of its recommendations will be strengthened, including through stronger tie-ins with United Nations Country Teams.”

From the SG Call to Action for HR (2020):

*“The Universal Periodic Review is a critical tool of engagement in our country-level work. We have many good practices and successful experiences - even in the most difficult circumstances. We pledge today to step up our efforts. I will soon issue **new Practical Guidance** to every UN country leader around the world to strengthen our platforms of cooperation to address human rights challenges utilizing the power and potential of the Universal Periodic Review.”*

General overview of the UPR Documentat ion

National Report

Prepared by the State
under Review ideally
following a broad
consultation process
with stakeholders

UN Compilation

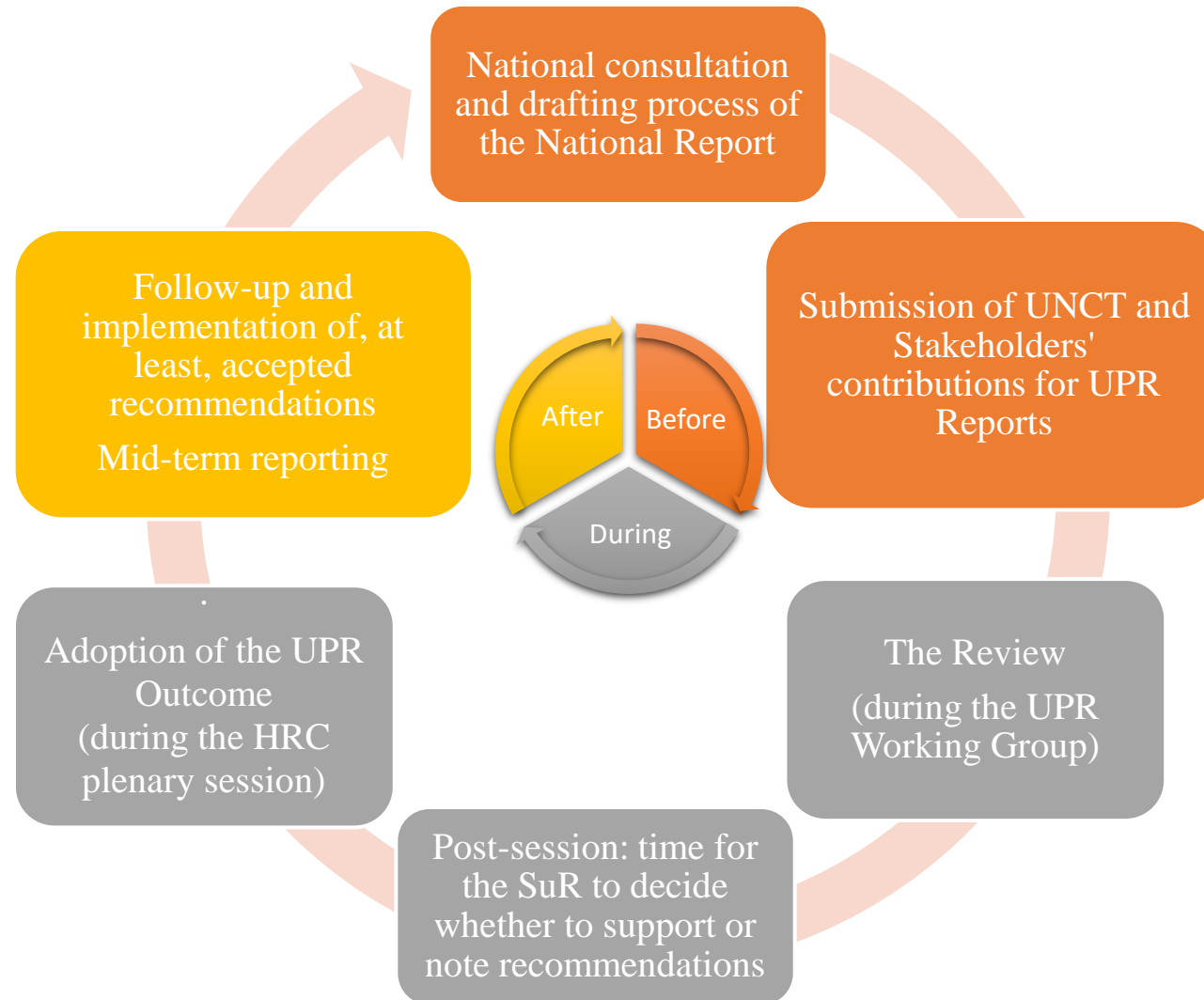
Prepared by OHCHR
using reports from
treaty bodies, special
procedures, including
comments from the
State, and other
relevant official UN
documents

Summary of Stakeholders

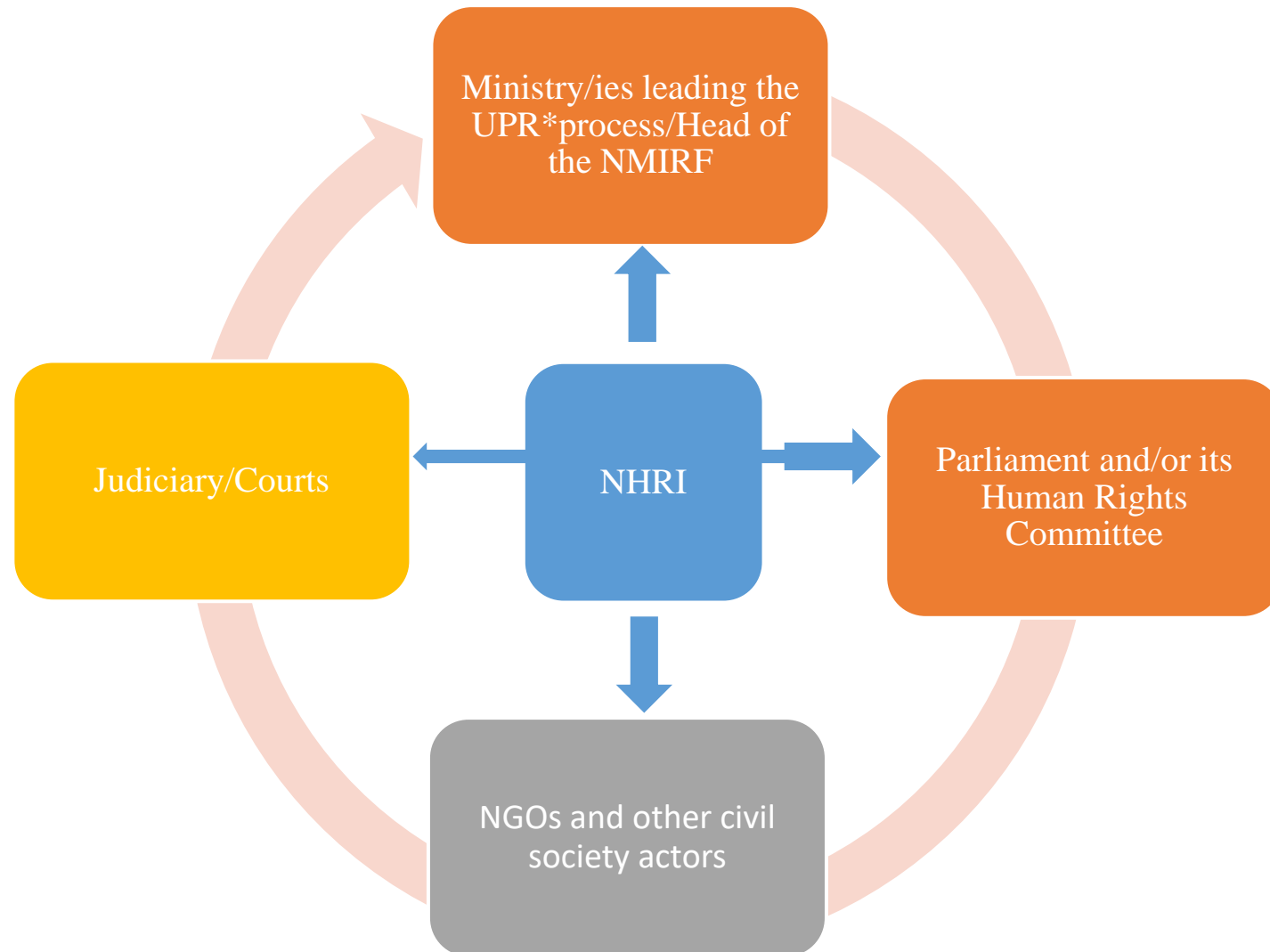
Prepared by OHCHR
using credible and
reliable information
provided by relevant
stakeholders,
including civil society,
NHRIs and regional
HR organizations

The quality of the reports prepared by OHCHR
depends on the quality of inputs received by the key stakeholders:
UN entities, Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures Mandate Holders,
and Civil Society actors.

Key Phases of a UPR cycle within 4.5 / 5 years



Role of an A status NHRI :- bridge between the Government and civil society actors



* Head of delegation and line Ministries available in the UPR WG report

Useful tools to enhance implementation and follow-up

In order **to facilitate engagement with States** that have undergone the UPR, **since** the beginning of the 3rd cycle, on **1 May 2017**, OHCHR makes available for each reviewed country - on its website (documentation by country):

- 1) **A Letter by the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Minister of Foreign Affairs** with an **Annex** containing 10 – 15 areas which in the view of the High Commissioner require particular attention by the State over the next 4.5 / 5 years and before the next cycle of the UPR;
- 2) **A Matrix of thematically clustered accepted and noted recommendations** per State reviewed, which detail what the State in front of the international community and at the highest level has agreed to act upon following the review immediately or at a later stage; and
- 3) **An Infographic** which shows trends between the 2nd and 3rd cycle in terms of received and accepted recommendations and linking recommendations to specific SDGs, most notably SDG 16, SDG 10, SDG 8, SDG 5 and SDG 4;

These documents are available for the **112 countries – soon 126** - whose outcome has been already adopted in the HRC and could be relied upon for advocacy with respect to policies and actions in the field of human rights;

What more could be done :

- - Support timely input into UPR documents by UN TB, SPMHs, UN Entities, RHRMs, NHRIs, NGOs;
- - Share relevant information with Member States ahead of the reviews;
- - Highlight the need for acceptance of relevant recommendations with the receiving States and all other international/regional and national stakeholders after the review and prior to adoption;
- - Advocate for an action plan by the State to implement at least accepted UPR recommendations linked with the SDGs - with the support of bilateral donors & ODA – often recommending States - and the UN system;
- - Advocate for a voluntary mid-term reporting on progress/challenges in implementation to the HRC and through the VNR in the HLPF.

FURTHER RESOURCES

- Universal Periodic Review: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRMain.aspx>
- HC Letter to the FM – Matrix and Infographics : <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/Documentation.aspx>
- National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF):
http://www.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/Documents/Publications/HR_PUB_16_1_NMRF_PracticalGuide.pdf&action=default&DefaultItemOpen=1
- National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP):
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/PlansActions/Pages/PlansofActionIndex.aspx>
- Mid-term Report on the UPR: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRImplementation.aspx>
- Human Rights Indicators (HRI): <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Indicators/Pages/HRIndicatorsIndex.aspx>
- National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD): <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/UPR/NRTD.pdf>
- Universal Human Rights Index (UHRI): <http://uhri.ohchr.org/en/>
- Sustainable Development Goals: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>
- UPR Cycles: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/CyclesUPR.aspx>
- UPR Practical Guidance: https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/UPR/UPR_Practical_Guidance.pdf
- UPR Tips for NHRIs and NGOs: https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/UPR/Tips_21Sept2020.pdf
- UPR Tips for Parliaments: https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/UPR/TIPs_Members_Parliament.pdf