

Bringing States and Civil Society together before the 28th Working Group Session

10 – 13 October 2017

Palais des Nations,
United Nations Office in Geneva
(UNOG)
Geneva, Switzerland*

UPR Info is organising UPR Pre-sessions in view of the 28th UPR Working Group session (November 2017) from **10-13 October 2017** at the *Palais des Nations*, Geneva.^{1*}

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Pre-sessions is to **offer Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) the opportunity to brief permanent delegations** on the human rights situation in the States under Review (SuR). They provide space for civil society **to engage directly in dialogue with States prior to the review** in order to have their concerns and recommendations taken into consideration by lobbying several delegations at once.

FORMAT

Pre-sessions are meetings organised one month prior to the UPR Working Group session bringing together Permanent Missions, Civil Society Organisations, and NHRIs to discuss the human rights situation in the forthcoming States under Review. The Pre-session for each SuR **lasts one hour**. Civil Society Organisations and NHRI are given the floor **between 5 to 7 minutes each**, to share their assessment of the human rights situation in the country since the previous review and the progress accomplished by the SuR in implementing the recommendations.

With the **transparency and universality principles** in mind, all Permanent Missions are invited, including the State under Review. The following Pre-sessions will be organised: *Argentina; Benin; Czechia; Gabon; Ghana; Guatemala; Japan; Pakistan; Peru; Republic of Korea; Sri Lanka; Switzerland; Ukraine; and Zambia.*

¹ Please note dates and venue are provisional, pending final confirmation from the United Nations.

“UPR PRE-SESSIONS ”

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Pre-sessions will offer an exchange of information on the human rights situation of the forthcoming SuR. States will receive **up-to-date information, precise questions and recommendations to make at the 28th UPR session**. The information given will reflect the reality and will represent the concerns of people on the ground.

PREVIOUS UPR PRE-SESSIONS

163 Pre-sessions have been organised since 2012, covering sessions 13 to 27. A total of 156 Permanent Missions followed almost 800 CSO and NHRI presentations.

WHAT TO EXPECT

UPR Info has received extensive positive feedback from participants highlighting the importance of the UPR Pre-Sessions as a **forum for collaboration and information sharing**. The Pre-Sessions filled the expressed need from both State delegations and CSOs to meet prior to the UPR Working Group Session to identify, discuss, and further develop recommendations to ensure focused attention to the most relevant human rights issues during the review.

For a comprehensive overview of the event and its format, potential applicants are invited to consult, “***UPR Info Pre-sessions: Empowering human rights voices from the ground***”: http://s.upr-info.org/Pre-sessions_Guide_EN

WHO IS UPR INFO?

UPR Info is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in Geneva, Switzerland. The organisation aims at both raising awareness and providing capacity-building tools to the different actors of the UPR process, such as United Nations (UN) Member States, NGOs, National Human Rights Institutions and civil society in general. *UPR Info* is the first NGO entirely dedicated to the UPR.

Since the inception of the UPR mechanism in April 2008, the organisation has developed a unique expertise on the process itself. This knowledge is widely recognised by several actors, and notably the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). *UPR Info* is regularly invited to participate in numerous conferences and trainings on the UPR, and manages several programmes in order to strengthen the UPR mechanism.

The website www.upr-info.org is the first source of information on the UPR for various stakeholders, including most of the Geneva-based missions to the UN as well as national and international civil society organisations, providing them with useful tools for their participation.

Created in February 2008, *UPR Info*’s current President is Mr. Miloon Kothari, former UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing.