

## **WHAT IS UPR**

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a process of the Human Rights Council (UNHCR) which involves a review of the human rights record of 193 UN Member States once every four years. The review is conducted by the UPR Working Group, which consists of the 47 members of the Council. During the UPR, the UN member states have all their human rights standards scrutinized thoroughly through a peer-to-peer human rights monitoring.

The UPR is a unique process as it makes civil society an equal stakeholder in discussing the human rights situation in a country along with the government and national human rights institutions. It also considers each human right of equal importance: whether civil, political, economical cultural social rights, and makes recommendations on all.

Three main documents are used to conduct the review of the State:

- A National Report of 20 pages prepared by the State concerned on the human rights situation in the country;
- A compilation of ten pages prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) containing information from treaty bodies, special procedures and UN agencies such as UNDP and UNICEF;
- A summary of ten pages containing information from the civil society.

The result of each review is reflected in an “outcome report” listing the recommendations the State under review (SuR) will have to implement before the next review.

The country being reviewed receives recommendations from other member nations on its human rights situation. The country being evaluated can choose to accept recommendations or merely take note of them. But once a country decides to support a recommendation, it is required to implement them before the next review.

Today, UPR is considered a success as for the first time all UN member states have voluntarily subjected their human rights records to international scrutiny. Studies have shown that UPR has been an effective platform for discussion at an international level and that it has had a positive impact on human rights at a national level.

India's 3<sup>rd</sup> UPR is ongoing and it received 250 recommendations by 112 UN countries on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017. On 21<sup>st</sup> September, the Indian government will respond on which recommendations they have accepted. The implementation of these recommendations will then be monitored by the UN Human Rights Council.

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