



About the Human Rights Council's Mechanisms and Subsidiary Bodies

Mandates and mechanisms

A. Universal periodic review

The universal periodic review (UPR) is a new human rights mechanism. Through it the Council periodically reviews the fulfillment by each of the United Nations 192 Member States of its human rights obligations and commitments. The UPR is a cooperative mechanism, based on an interactive dialogue with the State under review. It is intended to complement, not duplicate, the work of the treaty bodies

The UPR is to be seen as a process composed of several steps within a four-year cycle:

- The preparation of information upon which reviews are based (including information prepared by the State under review (national reports), a compilation of United Nations information prepared by the **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights** (OHCHR), and a summary of stakeholders' submissions, which is also prepared by OHCHR;
- The review itself, which takes place in the Working Group on the UPR, composed of the 47 member States of the Council, which meets in three two-weeks sessions each year;
- The consideration and adoption of review outcome documents by the Council at its regular sessions; and
- Follow-up to the implementation of UPR outcomes by reviewed States.

Relevant stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), human rights defenders, academic institutions and research institutes, regional organizations and civil society representatives, may participate in some of these steps.

B. Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee is a subsidiary body of the Human Rights Council. It replaced the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of the Commission on Human Rights, and functions as a think tank for the Council, focusing mainly on studies and research-based advice in a manner and form requested by the Council.

While unable to adopt resolutions or decisions, or to establish subsidiary bodies without the Council's authorization, the Advisory Committee can make suggestions to the Council:

- To enhance its own procedural efficiency; and
- To further research proposals within the scope of its work.

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