Basic facts about the UPR

What is the Universal Periodic Review?

- review of the human rights records of all UN Member States once every four years
- an opportunity for all States to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to overcome challenges
- a sharing of best human rights practices

Who conducts the review?

- The reviews are conducted by the UPR Working Group which consists of the 47 members of the Council
- Any UN Member State can take part in the discussion/dialogue with the reviewed States.
- Each State review is assisted by “troikas”, who serve as rapporteurs

What are the reviews based on?

- The documents on which the reviews are based are:
  1) National report
  2) Compilation of information contained in reports of independent human rights experts and groups, known as the Special Procedures, human rights treaty bodies, and other UN entities;
  3) Compilation of information from other stakeholders including non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions
     - written submissions to OHCHR should be sent indicatively at least five months before the relevant session of the Working Group on UPR
     - NOT longer than five pages, to which a more detailed and factual report maybe attached;
     - NOT longer than 10 pages for large coalitions of stakeholders

Can non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participate in the UPR process?

- Submit information to be added to the “other stakeholders” report
- Information they provide can be referred to by any of the States taking part in the interactive discussion during the review at the Working Group meeting.
- Attend the UPR Working Group sessions
- NGOs can NOT take the floor or submit written information during UPR sessions
- Participate in regular sessions of the HRC (UPR outcomes considered and adopted)
- Make brief general comments or written statements before the adoption of outcome documents by the HRC