

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

The [Universal Periodic Review \(UPR\)](#) is a unique process which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States. The UPR is a State-driven process, under the auspices of the Human Rights Council (HRC), which provides the opportunity for each State to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to fulfil their human rights obligations. Protection clusters, with their extensive experience and access on the ground, can bring information the attention of the States conducting the UPR process to better inform the recommendations they make to States under review.

How does it work?	
Which human rights are covered?	All plus IHL.
Which countries are covered?	All countries are covered by the UPR. 100% participation so far in the first 3 cycles (some 80 States sent mid-term reports).
How frequent is the monitoring?	Every State is reviewed every 4.5 years , with voluntary mid-term reporting in between.
What are its tools?	Public interactive dialogues to review of States' human rights records, UPR Working Group reports reflecting the recommendations made by States to the State under review, mid-term voluntary reporting. UPR documentation country by country, including a letter by the HC to the Foreign Minister after UPR adoption; a matrix of thematically clustered recommendations and an infographic, are available on-line; a UPR Practical Guidance for UNRCs, DSRSGs, HCs is also available in all UN languages .
Can they make country visits?	No. Yet through accepted UPR recommendations –including on IHL - country based related actions/advocacy by various national/international actors are possible.
Who makes the recommendations and to whom?	States to States, yet informed by two documents reflecting finding from the UN system, OHCHR, Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures, as well as submissions from NHRIs, Regional HR Mechanisms and NGOs.
What type of impact do they produce?	Political. States choose to support recommendations or to simply note them. If a State supports a recommendation, that political commitment can be used to encourage them to act. States and other stakeholders can offer support to the concerned States in implementing their supported recommendations. The value of these commitments is impacted by the State's willingness to implement them. The means by which clusters engage with the UPR process and follow up on its outcomes may vary accordingly.

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How quickly does it react?	National coordination mechanisms ensure follow up action through the regular/predictable cycle of 4.5/5 years.
How accessible is it?	Very: any organization can engage by submitting written information to the process and lobbying/advocating with States. Stakeholders may also be able to deliver or submit written/video statements at the adoption of UPR reports at the HRC.

Advocacy impact

Immediate advocacy	The UPR is not a suitable tool for addressing urgent individual cases although, if the political will is there, immediate action can follow to implement UPR recommendations e.g. on ending capital punishment; setting up a NPM or an A status NHRI, reforming laws/practices in line with international human rights norms.
Medium-term advocacy	The UPR is the UN human rights mechanism with the highest profile. All UN member states go through the UPR process. The process for providing submissions and other means of engagement typically begins 1-1.5 years before a State's session takes place. It can be an opportunity for humanitarian actors to raise protection issues on visible public platform, while also having channels for confidential advocacy directly with States on sensitive issues. States are expected to report on their implementation of supported recommendations in subsequent cycles.
Long-term advocacy	Humanitarian actors can draw on past UPR recommendations for implementation, without the need for new reports/submissions. The UPR cycle length and duration allows for engagement to be planned in greater detail so as to maximize impact.

How can the protection cluster engage?

Potential actions (direct, indirect, or in collaboration with other entities)

1. Stay updated when the country of operation is upcoming for review and share the information with PC members
2. Be familiar with processes on how protection cluster members can contribute to the UPR process
3. Deliver a session to protection cluster members on the UPR process (HRE TT can assist as needed)
4. Contribute a written submission for the UPR process

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5. Identify relevant UPR recommendations, including IHL recommendations, that were supported by the State during its most recent review, on which the protection cluster can follow up on implementation
6. Undertake activities to support the implementation of relevant UPR recommendations.
7. Consider noted UPR recommendations in order to identify potential risk areas for mediation/preventive action - RMR related discussions.
8. Utilize references to recommendations, reports or other outcomes of the UPR in the protection cluster's advocacy strategy and/or activities.

How did the protection cluster engage?				
Actions taken from the list above	What did the cluster do under this action	What challenges did the cluster face in taking this action	Result of the action	Further support needed from HRE TT
1. <input type="checkbox"/>				
2. <input type="checkbox"/>				
3. <input type="checkbox"/>				
4. <input type="checkbox"/>				
5. <input type="checkbox"/>				